

Marin Leadership Network Year 1 Cohort ■ 2009-10

Professional Learning Communities: Digging Deeper, Getting Better & Improving Learning for All

The Marin Leadership Network brings school/district teams together to deepen their understanding and implementation of professional learning communities (PLCs). The Network will dig deeper into the four essential questions of a PLC:

1. What do we want students to learn?
2. How will we know they have learned it?
3. What will we do if students don't learn it?
4. What will we do when students learn it or already know it?

With meetings scheduled throughout the school year, the Network is an ongoing professional development initiative for district leaders, principals, and teacher leaders. Each session is dedicated to the study and implementation of research-based strategies that improve student achievement and narrow the achievement gap.

Teams will develop a district case study to identify specific grades/subjects on which to focus and conduct a PLC cycle of inquiry that includes identifying key learnings/standards, creating common formative assessments, and using results to build a pyramid of interventions aligned to Response-to-Intervention (RtI) practices.

Benefits for Network participants

Network teams will be guided through a hands-on, step-by-step process and gain access to relevant, practical strategies and key tools to:

- Set clear, measurable goals for student learning.
- Create consistent learning expectations within a grade level or subject area.
- “Unwrap” key learnings/standards to obtain clarity about the specific skills, concepts, and Big Ideas to be taught.
- Create powerful common formative assessments that measure student learning of key standards.
- Build and implement an effective intervention and enrichment system.

2009-10 Network dates and content

All Network meetings are held at MCOE from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Lunch is provided.

- **November 10** – Overview of PLCs, goal setting, determining the guaranteed curriculum.
- **January 12** – Unwrapping key standards and developing common assessments.
- **March 23** – Modeling and practicing a cycle of inquiry using student learning data.
- **April 27** – How to respond when students don't learn and creating a pyramid Response-to-Intervention.

In addition, half-day facilitated meetings are held at district sites in December and March for those teams that select Option Two participation.

“ Professional learning communities have emerged as arguably the best, most agreed-upon means by which to continuously improve instruction and student performance. They succeed where typical staff development and workshops fail. ”

—Mike Schmoker, *Results Now*

What you'll gain from the Network

- A step-by-step plan of action for implementing PLCs in your district and schools.
- Trained facilitators to work in-district with your team(s) as you implement PLCs.
- Practical strategies, tools, and insights from research on gap-closing schools and districts that operate as PLCs.
- Invaluable team time at each meeting to debrief, plan, and act.
- An implementation plan for achieving and sustaining specific, strategic practices to improve student learning.
- Connection of Network content to the Essential Program Components (EPCs) and your district, school, and/or DAIT plans.

FYI *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus and Title I Professional Development funds can be used to support Network participation!*

Who should attend?

District teams should include:

- Superintendent
- District office administrators
- Principals
- Teacher leaders
- Board members (no charge)

Recommended team composition:

- Team members representing *all* levels of the system.

Investment

Fees have been reduced up to 50% thanks to the generous support of the Stuart Foundation. Districts will be reimbursed for teacher sub costs.

- Option One - \$300 per person \$ _____
District provides own facilitator
- Option Two - \$300 per person \$ _____
Plus \$2,000 for a trained facilitator

Total amount due \$ _____

Don't delay—register today!

Registration at <http://signup.marinschools.org/curriculum.asp>

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