

Vallivue School District 139

Research has shown that teachers can have a great impact on improving student learning and achievement when they have the opportunity to work together to look at student achievement, to make changes, and then to talk about the effect of those changes.

Professional Learning Teams (PLT's) are vehicles for educators to work in collaborative teams to identify issues and goals, research professional literature, share experiences and problem solve in real situations directly related to student achievement. Collaborative teams are specifically designed to share expertise and perspectives on teaching and learning processes by:

- Improving student learning
- Examining data about students
- Planning thoughtful instruction based on student needs
- Developing a sense of mutual support and shared responsibility for effective instruction

Teachers on professional learning teams are expected to go beyond listening to an expert in the field or reading the same article from a professional journal or attending the same workshop. They are expected to work together to apply new knowledge in the context of their school. They understand that improving the school means improving the practices of the people within the school.

In order to support Professional Learning Teams in the Vallivue School District, the Board of Trustees will designate specific early release days for teacher collaboration. Professional Learning Team time is to be used for:

- Grade-level team planning
- Content area planning
- Vertical teaming
- Curriculum development
- Sharing strategies and best practices
- Analyzing student work
- Developing new approaches to teaching and learning
- Strategic planning

In order for collaboration time to benefit Vallivue students, all teachers are expected to participate in team collaboration and not to use the time for other activities such as holding meetings, taking personal leave or scheduling personal appointments, working alone in the classroom, completing paperwork, grading papers, conducting parent conferences, or attending to extra-curricular activities.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:****ADOPTED: 1/11/2005 (directly replaces existing policy 404.4)****AMENDED: 12/12/06**