

For Jigsaw:

Group #2

From "What Is a Professional Learning Community?" by Richard DuFour the main ideas of the section entitled, "Big Idea #2: A Culture of Collaboration" are –

Introduction states:

Despite compelling evidence that working collaboratively represents the best practices for a PLC (or Professional Learning Community), we know that many do not.

#1. The strength of the Professional Learning Community, or PLC is within the systematic process of collaboration, where teachers work to improve classroom outcomes. This process includes questions, analysis, and the promotion of team learning that leads to student achievement.

#2. In an example of collaboration in Grade Level teams, teachers studied and then identified critical outcomes that must be mastered by the students. These teams next determined collaboratively how to measure and assess these outcomes.

#3. For the process to work schools must insure that **all** teachers are a member of a team. Schools must insure that they are given support and that they remain focused on the student goals which are in turn comparable to the district goals.

#4. Barriers to the success of effective collaboration in a PLC are that some school districts *intend* a curriculum that is different than the *implemented* curriculum which may also differ from what the students *learned*.

#5. There are no excuses. To build and implement a culture of collaboration is a question of will. The determination of a group of staff members can collectively find the way.

The 2nd article entitled, "*Professional Learning Communities: What Are They And Why Are They Important?*"

The main ideas are:

#1. The authors have researched Professional Learning Communities, or PLC's and found that it has been determined and confirmed that teachers

who have expanded their roles to include professional development such as collaborative learning were more likely to adopt new classroom techniques and remain in the profession.

#2. Professional Learning Communities, or PLC's have 5 main attributes, of which collective creativity is 1 of the attributes. Collective creativity refers to the dynamic by which administrative staff and teachers discuss issues and problems in order to identify new solutions.

#3. Researchers refer to the reflective dialogue of these communities as *inquiry*. *Inquiry* has key components which guide the collective in order to learn from the dialogue.

#4. *Shared values and visions* (of a PLC) should actually provide an image of what is important to the learning community.

#5. The focus (of a PLC) should always be on student achievement and learning.