

Belmont Public Schools
Professional Learning Teams
2017-2018

Vision Statement

Learning for all students is improved when the educators work together on a targeted area of need.

In the Belmont Public Schools, Professional Learning Teams are the vehicle for collaborative learning, inquiry and action research through which self-selected teams of educators:

- Identify an area of their professional practice that they want to learn more about/improve, OR an area of student learning in need of improvement, supported by evidence and aligned with district and school goals.
- Determine if the work best fits as a Professional Practice Goal (learn something to improve educator practice) or a Student Learning Goal (apply new learning to the work with students to improve their learning).
- Write a SMART goal that articulates what you will learn about or do to improve student learning in this area.
- Work together to increase knowledge and/or try out strategies with students.
- Learn and implement new instructional strategies and collect data to measure their effectiveness.
- Share new learning, findings, and recommendations with colleagues at the PLT Conference, through the online reports, and at faculty, curriculum, and department meetings.
- Improve student learning.

September – November PLT Tasks:

- Review district, school, and program goals, focusing on the initiatives particular to your subject or grade level. These are located on the Professional Development web site under the “For Staff” tab.
- Discuss areas of professional learning and areas of student learning in need of improvement with your colleagues, principal, and curriculum specialist or director.
- Review existing data such as standardized test scores, student work, exit surveys from projects or courses, etc. to determine which areas of need would have the greatest impact on student learning. If limited evidence exists, consider how you might gather information to help focus your topic.
- Share your PLT topic with colleagues to see if they are interested in joining your work.
- If you need help finding a PLT, talk to your principal or curriculum director.
- Meet with colleagues to discuss PLT ideas at the **September 20 Teacher-Generated Agenda Meeting**.
- Facilitators: submit your name, topic and PLT members by **October 6** on this [Google Form](#).
- New facilitators enroll in the facilitator training course. **Course dates: October 16, November 13, December 4, January 8, February 5, March 19. (Classes meet 3:30-5:30 p.m.)** If you have previous leadership/facilitation experience, you can email Janice Darias to request an exemption from the course.
- All PLT documents are shared with facilitators on Google drive/Google sites.
- Download the PLT documents from the BPS web site.
- During the **October 11** PLT Session: Finalize your PLT membership (if you haven’t already) and write your PLT Charter. If it will also serve as a Professional Practice or Student Learning Goal, all PLT members must submit it to their evaluator on the SMART Goal form in TeachPoint by **November 1**.
- Send a final copy of the PLT Charter (with all signatures) to Janice Darias by **November 17**.