

Professional Learning Communities Guide

Dialogue matters. Enable it! Encourage it! Educators who have the opportunity to reflect and perfect their practices get better student results (Gregory and Kuzmich, 2007). Professional Learning Communities work together to examine new resources, discuss teaching techniques, assess current practices and take a more reflective approach to instruction. Here's one way to do it...



1. Become familiar with *Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Personal Financial Literacy*. <http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/pdf/pfl.pdf> Share thoughts and ideas regarding the standards.
2. Discuss the following questions:
 - What financial literacy skills, knowledge and dispositions do we want students to learn?
 - How will we know they are learning them?
 - How will we respond when student don't learn?
 - How will we respond when they do learn?
3. View *Financial Literacy: TEACH IT!* for lesson, assessment and extension ideas.
4. Check-out *Map It* to see how other schools around Wisconsin are implementing financial literacy in their curriculum.
5. View the Q & A interviews with each practitioner.
6. Explore *Link It* for lesson, assessment and extension ideas.
7. Reflect on the ideas shared in the programs, using these conversation starters:
 - Which financial literacy practices from the videos reflect what you are currently doing with your students?
 - Which financial literacy practices from the videos are new to you?
 - What practices from the videos could you implement that would help your students learn the financial literacy skills, knowledge and dispositions in your curriculum?
 - How do the teachers in the videos assess student's learning?
 - What do the teachers in the videos do when students do not learn? What would you do?
 - What do the practitioners from the video do to extend the learning for students who have reached proficiency? What would you do?

- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of what you see.
 - How could you adapt the lesson for your students?
 - Discuss how this financial literacy content fits into your school's mission and vision.
 - Review your district's curriculum map. Identify the gaps and overlaps in terms of what is currently being taught in your district with regards to financial literacy.
 - Discuss what can be done to move forward toward building an effective financial literacy program in your school. (Encourage diversity of thought and perspective.)
 - Discuss the culture of the classroom and how it contributes to the success of the financial literacy lesson.
 - What support and or resources will you need to implement your new ideas?
8. Use your newly acquired knowledge to teach a financial literacy lesson in your classroom.
 9. Reconvene the professional learning community.
 - Since our last meeting, what have you done to teach financial literacy with your students?
 - What content was used?
 - What went well?
 - What would you do differently next time?
 10. Share usable feedback and draw on the expertise of those in your group.
 11. CELEBRATE your successes because you are a better teacher today than you were yesterday!