



## Amy Stewart

E.C. Brice Elementary School  
Mount Pleasant, Texas



My principal and I both began working at Brice Elementary three years ago. In the past, Brice was a high-performing school but has since been on a decline. We were asked to "figure out the problem and fix it." We immediately identified several areas of concern and went to work. After three years, I can say that our campus now functions as an effective Professional Learning Community. Through these PLCs, we have been able to find holes in our curriculum, increase our instructional rigor, and build teacher capacity.

This transition has been bumpy at times, but we are now seeing the buy-in from teachers as students are beginning to show gains. We revised the current schedule to provide built-in time for PLCs. During this dedicated time, our teachers are having rich discussions about the TEKS and the best ways to ensure student learning. The focus of discussion for our teachers has transitioned from "what are we teaching?" to "what are the students learning?"

During the PLCs, we begin with the end in mind and discuss how we will assess student learning. We plan daily outcomes for student learning and also create grade level common assessments. This enhanced the rigor of our instruction almost immediately. After administering these common assessments, we meet with teachers to discuss the areas the students mastered and the concepts that need to be retaught. Based on this data, the teachers work with small groups of students who need enrichment and/ or intervention. These groups are flexible and are revisited frequently. My favorite conversations from PLCs have become the ones between co-workers asking how the other taught a particular concept from a common assessment. Our teachers now feel comfortable asking for suggestions and ideas from others when their students aren't showing mastery.

The practice of building a Professional Learning Community is not always easy; however, it is worth it! All areas on our campus including morale, teacher effectiveness, instructional rigor, intervention, assessment, and curriculum have been positively affected through our PLCs.