

What is a Professional Learning Community (PLC)?

- A professional learning community is a group of educators who are committed to working together to help each child be more successful in school.
- PLCs measure their effectiveness on the basis of results for students, rather than intentions or good ideas. It's about monitoring data, taking action and continually adjusting to meet the needs of students.
- PLCs are instrumental in achieving our district wide goals established by our district and individual school committees.

How are PLC activities different from traditional professional development?

- Under the PLC model, time for professional learning is more frequent and consistent. Rather than employing substitutes for district meetings, the focus is on groups of teachers reviewing individual student achievement data, identifying students who need extra help or more challenging work, investigating better teaching practices to help all students, and planning future instruction.
- The five key questions that will guide the work of PLC teams are:
 - What do we want students to understand after each unit, course or grade level?
 - How will we know if they understand it?
 - What will we do if they don't understand?
 - What will we do if they already understand?
 - What are the proven best practices we can use in the classroom to benefit all students?

When will Genoa-Kingston begin implementing PLCs district-wide?

- Genoa-Kingston # 424 will begin district-wide implementation of PLCs in the 2014-2015 school year.

What is the effect of PLCs on the 2014-2015 school calendar?

- Every Wednesday during the school year will be an early release (1:45 p.m.)
- [Genoa-Kingston's Academic Year Calendar \(PDF\)](#).

Don't teachers already have planning time?

- Yes. however, teachers use that time to prepare lessons and grades, return phone calls and e-mails, meet with students and parents, update websites, etc.
- Many schools have implemented PLCs and try to schedule ways to work together, but additional, dedicated time is needed so that teachers can collaborate around student learning.
- District-wide PLC times also allow teachers from different schools to work cooperatively.

Why can't the professional development be done before/after school or during the summer?

- Those times fall outside of our teachers' contractual agreement. Dedicated time within the school day ensures maximum participation and provides the most benefit for students.

How will PLC day's impact teaching and learning time?

- There is a positive impact on instructional time. Data days at the elementary level will be eliminated. There will be less use of substitutes for teacher meetings normally held during the school day.

How do early release days impact transportation and student activities?

- Buses will arrive at school for pick-up exactly one hour earlier than usual and after-school activities will not be affected.

What about child care afterschool for parents who work or have other commitments?

- Genoa-Kingston has arranged with the Genoa Park District to provide all families with options for after school child care with our early release time on Wednesdays in mind.
- The costs will vary depending on the amount of time required.
- More Park District Information at www.genoaparks.com

Where can I get more information about PLCs?

- Visit www.gkschools.org
- Call your student's school and speak with the building principal.