



Newsletter

by Robert Abney
HPREC Region-Wide Collaboration

Greetings, HPREC Member District Staff!

To help facilitate the collaboration process, please look for regular newsletters which will be packed with useful information and tools which will support your efforts. In addition, I am working with HPREC to create a webpage that will contain resources, links, and other information of value to the shared work. You and your team members can also use the website to post information to share throughout the region. Please look for more information soon.

August 9 Kick-Off

Thank you for your participation and support for our collaborative kick-off on August 9. We received a lot of great and important feedback. I am so glad that we had this opportunity and look forward to future events. We learned that there is room for improvement, especially regarding the intended time for team work. We value your time as professionals and apologize that the planning was not ideal and that the time was not spent more productively. In contrast, we did hear some amazing things about the day. Connections were made, networking was ablaze, and discussions were held about the important work you do for our students. This is the purpose of collaboration and teams - to share strategies and to problem solve. We look forward to building the framework for the collaboration.

There are three books that I highly recommend to support your PLC and collaboration. What isn't available from NMPED, can be purchased by High Plains REC.

Learning by Doing (3rd edition, 2016) – Richard DuFour, et al.

Dufour's foundational book that covers the entire PLC process including how to build teams, how to develop common assessments, how to create interventions, and how to address team conflict. This is the bible of the PLC process, and it is an essential book for effective collaboration.

Revisiting Professional Learning Communities at Work (2nd edition, 2021) – Richard DuFour, et al.

Previously provided by NMPED to all districts (21-22); while *Learning By Doing* helps you with HOW to design PLCs, this publication addresses the WHY we should collaborate.

How to Develop PLCs for Singletons and Small Schools (2015) – Aaron Hansen.

This book may actually be the most helpful for all of you, as it talks specifically about how to collaborate in small schools and how elective teachers can participate in collaborative teams with core teachers. It's an easy read and has some great ideas, including the virtual structure that some of you are (hopefully!) doing right now. This link should work for you: [singletons-and-small-schools](#)

Let's talk about the ONE question that everyone on your team must be really clear on as you collaborate:

What do you want your students to learn, know, and be able to do?

It is critical. You MUST be able to answer this question. Why? If you don't know what you want your students to learn, know, and be able to do, how are you able to:

- Create lessons, including a lesson objective and activities that support learning?
 - Build assessments (formative or summative)?
- Provide support for students who are having difficulties (reteach, intervene)?

This question is VITAL and is the foundation of your teaching. So, if you do nothing else this week, ask yourself, *Is it clear in my mind what I want my students to learn? If not, how can I make it clear, so that I can effectively teach, assess, and intervene?*

This is a GREAT question to initiate discussion with your teams at school, as well as when you meet in your region-based teams again. Collective wisdom can easily help us solve problems. I hope that all of you are continuing the conversations started in August and that you are taking advantage of each other's wisdom.

We will continue to work on improving the structure for all of you. If you have questions or need support, please contact me at rabney@swrecnm.org

Thank you for all you do for your students every day!

Robert



HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE #3