Collaborative professional learning leads to improvement

Focus on student work positively affects student achievement in Smithfield Public Schools

**CHALLENGE**

- Smithfield students struggled with writing as evidenced by PARCC data and teacher-reported anecdotal data.
- Smithfield had no core writing curriculum.
- Smithfield also had no process for understanding standards and choosing, implementing learning designs to meet instructional needs in mathematics and writing.
- Annual time for collaboration and professional learning was limited to two professional development days and 5.5 hours for teachers to engage in individual professional learning “on their own.”

**SOLUTION**

- Staff meeting time was repurposed to provide time for grade-level teams to meet and collaboratively look at student data.
- Grade-level teams used the same Looking at Student Work protocol to structure collaborative meeting time, focus meetings on writing instruction tied to new curriculum and grade-level expectations, and target instructional steps for students based on their writing needs.
- Protocol provided a structure and replicable process, including a way to sort student artifacts, to document the outcomes of the collaborative conversation, identify next steps, and scale the process to other content areas or grades.
- Teachers implemented instructional steps for the whole class and small groups of students then discussed results with their teams.

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• 55 PD hours are available for this work.

RICAS: Rank compared to other districts in RI

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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• RICAS data by grade level showing Smithfield results compared to other districts in Rhode Island.

• Percentage of students in the high growth category increased in the two intervention schools.

Teacher surveys: How did each aspect of the protocol improve your practice?

PDSA Pre-Survey LaPerche - Aug. 2018
How often do you collaboratively look at student work such as writing samples, math quick checks or reading responses?
16 responses

PDSA Post-Survey LaPerche - Feb. 2020
How often do you collaboratively look at student work such as writing samples, math quick checks or reading responses?
21 responses

PDSA Pre-Survey McCabe - Aug. 2018
How often do you collaboratively look at student work such as writing samples, math quick checks or reading responses?
34 responses

PDSA Post-Survey McCabe - Feb. 2020
How often do you collaboratively look at student work such as writing samples, math quick checks or reading responses?
14 responses