

# Glossary of Professional Learning Community Terms

## Lakeview School District

### Introduction

According to *Learning By Doing: A Handbook for Professional Learning Communities at Work* (2010), the authors define a PLC as “an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve” (p. 11). However, they also caution that “the term has become so commonplace and has been used so ambiguously to describe virtually any loose coupling of individuals who share a common interest in education that it is in danger of losing all meaning” (p. 10).

The following glossary of terms has been drafted by a team of PLC leaders from across the district. This team includes Instructional Team Leaders (ITLs), Instructional Coaches, Coordinators, Building Administrators, and Central Office administrators who recognize a need for shared definitions that align our understandings and practices.

### Glossary of Terms

**Community** - The “C” in PLC stands for Community. This means that educators work collaboratively toward common goals, honor diverse perspectives, and create a sense of belonging. The net result is that individuals on the team feel safe to be vulnerable, take intellectual risks, share ideas, and navigate conflict.

**Current Reality** -

**Learning** - The “L” in PLC stands for Learning. This means that educators embrace an ongoing commitment to learning and inquiry. They show this by listening, questioning, and reflecting as they engage in various forms of professional learning. It also means that educators study student data to critically examine their own instructional practices and adapt as needed.

**Professional** - The “P” in PLC stands for Professional. This means that educators are dedicated and focused on district curriculum goals. They are prepared to collaborate around a common vision and goals, and maintain a level of mutual care and respect.

**SMART Goal** - A goal is the shared pursuit of a PLC team, collaboratively drafted, and informed by available data points. A goal is “SMART” when it is Strategic/Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Oriented, and Timebound.