

Berks Career and Technology Center

Program Title: Professional Learning Communities (Peer Groups)

Goals/Objectives: To provide teachers opportunities to work collaboratively to develop skill/strategies for integration of academics.

Description:

Professional Learning Communities allow teachers the opportunity to augment their professional growth and to focus on strategies that impact student achievement at Berks CTC. The professional staff participates in professional learning communities, called Peer Groups at BCTC, on a regular basis to dialog about best practices, instructional and integration strategies, and to explore topics related to special education and career and technical education.

Evaluation Tools & Procedures:

A walk through feedback instrument was developed for use by administrators to make notes and share what is observed when they visit the class/lab. These forms allow administrators to observe the use of strategies in a non-threatening manner and to provide a simple tool to offer feedback. Teachers modeled use of strategies.

Results of Activity:

Teachers embraced and implemented many of the literacy strategies. Students are more engaged in the lessons presented using the strategies and are getting more from the text and other resources. Teachers are looking at ways to motivate students more effectively.

Resources and Other Related Information:

MAX teaching workbook, MAX teaching in-service activity with Dr. Mark forget, In-service at BCTC using Richard Lovoie DVD's "Fat City", "Beyond Fat City", and "The Motivation Breakthrough". SREB/TAP workshops in Literacy and Numeracy, and the SREB workbook "Literacy Across the Curriculum".

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