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HCHS Recognized as Model Professional Learning Community



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Houston County High School has been recognized as a 2020 Model Professional Learning Community at Work by Solution Tree for its sustained success in raising student achievement. Houston County High is one of about 200 schools and districts in the U.S. and Canada to receive this honor. Successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work™ process has been a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students.

Schools and educators that embrace Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) recognize the key to improved student learning is on-going, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to:

1. Focus on learning.
2. Build a collaborative culture.
3. Create a results orientation.

Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit an application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

Principal Dr. Doug Rizer said, “We are honored to be chosen for this recognition. This hard work has paid off for our students and supports our motto of “All Means All.” Thanks to our teachers’ and administrators’ commitment to the PLC process, our school’s performance measures, student growth and achievement have increased. Most importantly, we have significantly closed the gap for underperforming subpopulations. Our goal is to continue to grow through the PLC journey, as we strive toward greater gains in student achievement.”

PLC tools include teacher Content Area Teams who work together to create common assessments and analyze data student by student. Houston County High’s PLC culture assessing each individual

MORE

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student's learning to provide what they need during the school day, tailored to each student's individual needs. A plan of improvement is developed for each student, whether remediation, intervention or enrichment, which the student receives during the school day during "Bear Time."

For two years, close to 2,000 students have been getting help or enrichment in English language arts, social studies, math, science, foreign language, CTAE, electives, fine arts or guidance twice a week for 35 minutes. Every staff member in the school, from the principal to the custodians, helps ensure students get to the right place quickly for Bear Time. Every Friday a schedule for each student is set for the following week, based on the student's needs. Bear Time assignments are partly determined when teachers drill down to which test questions students missed or got right, determining why, and figuring out what is needed for them to be more successful. This is a commitment to helping each and every student succeed at their personal highest level of learning.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work™, educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown "a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey."

Recognized model PLC schools are listed on allthingsplc.info, where they share implementation strategies, structures, and performance with other educators interested in improving their schools. Tools for team collaboration, articles and research about PLCs, blog posts, and other related resources are also available on the site. The site was developed and is maintained by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance. For more than 20 years, Solution Tree resources have helped K-12 teachers and administrators create schools where all children succeed.

Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Dr. Rizer can be reached at Douglas.Rizer@hcbe.net or 478-988-6340. To review the school's PLC submission, visit this [link](#).

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