



Sustaining Continuous School Improvement and Standards-based Learning through Professional Learning Communities

Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Plans focus on the accomplishment of several goals that address the gap between data analysis and the school's vision. The links among the goals should always be visible so as to create coherence in understanding and implementation. The SWUC Office of Education has developed a Nuts & Bolts document that aids in this process, aligning the work of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with Continuous School Improvement (CSI) and Standards-based Learning (SBL).

Professional learning communities provide a collaborative culture where educators work together to ensure higher levels of collective teacher efficacy and learning for every student. PLCs are committed to the continuous school improvement cycle which uses data analysis and professional learning to drive staff engagement for improvement. As part of the CSI process, standards-based learning articulates the vision for teaching and learning, referring to integrated systems of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and the learning environment that are based on students demonstrating proficiency of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn.

Four phases have been identified for the integration of CSI and SBL within the context of PLCs. An overview follows. See the [Nuts and Bolts document](#) for more details.

Overview

1	<p align="center">PLC - Committing to a Common Purpose How do we get started?</p>	
Phase	<p>CSI – Data Analysis and Problem Solving</p> <p>Where are we now? How did we get to where we are?</p>	<p>SBL – Purpose</p> <p>What are the basic elements of standards-based learning?</p>
2	<p align="center">PLC – Building a Team How do we support team development?</p>	
Phase	<p>CSI – Mission and Vision</p> <p>Where do we want to be?</p>	<p>SBL – Plan</p> <p>What are the basic elements of year-long and unit planning?</p>
3	<p align="center">PLC – Creating a Results Orientation How do we focus the work?</p>	
Phase	<p>CSI – Development and Implementation of CSI Plan</p> <p>How will we get to where we want to be?</p>	<p>SBL – Practice</p> <p>What teaching and learning practices align with standards-based learning?</p>
4	<p align="center">PLC – Looking Forward How do we structure PLC discussions?</p>	
Phase	<p>CSI – Evaluation of the CSI Plan</p> <p>Is what we are doing making a difference?</p>	<p>SBL – Product</p> <p>How can assessment and instructional cycles further refine unit planning?</p>