

COLLABORATIVE PLANNING – SHARING THE LOAD AND THE JOY

Collaborative planning is lesson planning on steroids and is a powerful tool for improving teaching and learning.

Joint planning for teachers, also known as collaborative lesson planning, involves teachers working together to design lessons and activities.

This approach fosters a supportive environment for professional development, enhances teaching practices, and ultimately improves learners learning.

It enables teachers to share ideas, receive feedback, and refine their approaches, resulting in more effective and engaging lessons.

Key aspects of joint planning

Regular meetings

Dedicate time on the annual schedule for collaborative planning sessions.

Shared goals and vision

Clear and shared goals, along with a common vision, are crucial for effective collaboration planning.

Resource sharing

Pool knowledge, materials and resources to create comprehensive lesson plans that are tailored to meet the needs of learners.

Collaborative design

Engage in discussions, brainstorming sessions, and feedback sessions to refine lesson plans.

Inclusive practices

Effectively embed inclusive practices and accommodations into lesson plans, ensuring that all students' needs are met.

Reflection and refinement

Analyse the effectiveness of lessons and make adjustments based on learner performance and feedback.

Professional growth

Joint planning provides teachers with the opportunity to learn from one another, develop new skills, and cultivate a stronger professional community.



Benefits of joint planning

Improved lesson quality

Collaborative planning leads to more thoughtful, well-structured and engaging lessons.

Increased teacher confidence

Working together can boost teachers' confidence and reduce feelings of isolation.

Enhanced collaboration skills

Teachers develop stronger communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills through collaborative planning.

Enhanced learners' learning

By improving teaching practices, joint planning ultimately contributes to better learning outcomes.

Reduced workload

Sharing the planning process can alleviate some of the pressure on individual teachers.

Professional development

Joint planning provides a structured environment for teachers to learn from one another and advance their professional growth.

Positive school culture

When implemented effectively, collaborative planning can create a positive and supportive school culture that values teacher input and promotes learner success.

Examples of joint planning structures

Co-teaching

Two or more teachers share the responsibility for planning, delivering and assessing a lesson.

Scan this QR code to learn more about co-teaching.



Team planning

All teachers within a specific subject or grade level collaborate on lesson design.

Mentoring

Experienced teachers mentor newer teachers during the planning process.

Professional learning communities (PLCs)

Teachers meet regularly to discuss learners' learning, share best practices, and collaborate on lesson planning.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

What are they?

A professional learning community (PLC) in schools involves collaboration, sharing and ongoing critical interrogation of teaching practices. PLCs should be learning-oriented and promote the growth of teachers and learners.

"The staffroom needs to be a professional community of scholars working together to maximise each other's success." ~ Professor John Hattie

Why professional learning communities?

They help teachers collaborate to enhance teaching, boost confidence, share ideas, and foster consistent learning for all learners. Working as a team leads to stronger leadership, better results, and lasting school improvement.



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