Testimonial: Matt LaBuda, Northern York County School District

Why did we choose PLN?

In 2012-2013, we conducted an internal analysis of our instructional program. This effort provided us with building-specific instructional focus areas. With these improvement areas in mind, we researched a variety of professional development options. The University of Pennsylvania’s Literacy Network (PLN) unequivocally aligned best with our needs.

The Penn Literacy Network has provided us a system-wide learning framework through which we are successfully implementing research-based and targeted instructional strategies in a consistent, pervasive, supportive, and perennial manner. Because of PLN, our students are more engaged in their learning and they are being challenged to think at higher levels during their lessons.

Why has PLN been successful?

We know student learning is catalyzed when teachers facilitate learning activities that require students to summarize frequently and use higher level thinking skills.

As a result of PLN, our students are utilizing these two powerful learning strategies through writing, explaining, building support for an argument, and solving problems, all within a co-constructivist learning atmosphere.

Teachers have flourished because this professional development is relevant, authentic, and purposefully job-embedded, providing a climate that incorporates both high expectations and high support.

The Penn Literacy Network, through its course work and instructional coaching support, embodies the above and has made a positive difference in our teaching and learning. It has been one of the most successful professional development initiatives with which I have been associated in my 21 years in public education.

Matt LaBuda
Assistant to the Superintendent and
Former High School Principal