

West Plains School District Early Release Days and Professional Learning Communities Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the West Plains School District going to a one hour "early release" schedule for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in 2020-2021?

The West Plains School District is striving to improve student learning for all students. In order for teachers to develop assessments and instructional strategies to reach all learners, the district has designated time in the 2020-2021 calendar to allow teachers at all grade levels to collaborate. The district is very thankful to the board of education for recognizing the need for teacher collaboration. Each week on Wednesdays, all buildings will dismiss one hour early.

Will the buses still take my child home?

Yes. School buses will drop off students, at their regular bus stops, one hour earlier than their regular schedule on Wednesday's.

What will teachers be doing during the one hour PLC early release?

National research supports that teachers working in collaboration with one another to improve student learning results in more learning for all students. Teachers will be working in grade level or content teams by subject area to identify common agreements on what all students should know and be able to do as a result of a class or course; develop common assessments to measure student progress on those standards; identify students that need additional time and support; and identify options for students that have already met the standards. Teaching is generally an isolated profession throughout the nation and West Plains School District is working to improve student learning by developing a more collaborative culture.

Who do I call if I have specific questions about what my student's school is doing?

Call the building principal at your child's school.

Where can parents and other interested parties review the goals, objectives, and measurements of effectiveness regarding this program?

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) are a research-based model for collaboration. The District Strategic Improvement Plan, which can be found on the district website www.zizzers.org, identifies specific goals and objectives for measuring the district progress on improving student learning. Additional

information on professional learning communities can be found at www.allthingsplac.info.

When do the one hour PLC early releases begin?

One hour PLC early releases will begin in all buildings on Wednesday, August 26th 2020, and continue through May 12th, 2021. Please see the district calendar for early release dates.