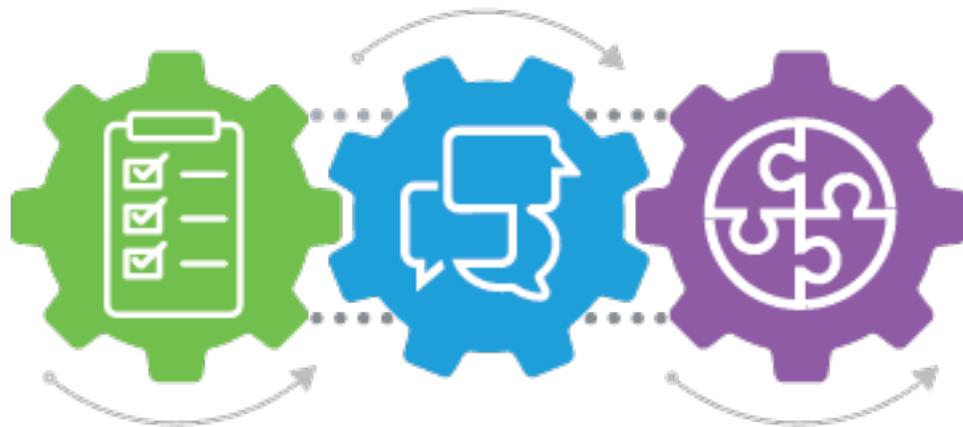# G Gizmos

Administrator
TOOLKIT

Plan • Communicate • Integrate

Welcome to the ExploreLearning Gizmos PLC Toolkit!

The ExploreLearning Gizmos PLC Toolkit is for educators and the professionals who support educators. It offers support to you as you work with your colleagues in professional learning communities to develop, study, and revise Gizmos lesson plans, to refine pedagogical strategies and to promote dialog among educators with common student goals and outcomes.

The toolkit gives hints, tips and practical examples to plan and deliver math and science standards-based lesson plans utilizing ExploreLearning Gizmos.

The ExploreLearning Gizmos PLC Toolkit Contents:
I.   Welcome Letter and Table of Contents
II.   START HERE - "**Professional Learning Communities and Gizmos**" video describing the use of the toolkit
III.   Defining a Professional Learning Community (PLC)
IV.   Gizmos and the PLC Toolkit
   a.   Purpose
   b.   Components
      i.   *FOCUS:* identify the focus of the collaborative planning meeting
      ii.   *UNPACK:* break down of the focus standards of the lessons
      iii. *SEARCH:* search for aligned Gizmos to the lessons
      iv.   *REVIEW:* examination of lesson materials from Gizmos site
      v.   *CUSTOMIZE:* modify lesson materials to meet the needs of the standards-based lesson
      vi.   *REFLECT:* evaluation of lesson delivery and prepare for next steps
V.   Gizmos PLC Planning Tool – annotated with guiding questions
VI.   **Gizmos PLC Planning Tool – editable form**
VII.   **Example Science Gizmos PLC Planning Tool with customized lesson materials**
VIII.   **Example Math Gizmos PLC Planning Tool with customized lesson materials**
IX.   **Video slides with transcription for use with your PLC**

The ExploreLearning PLC Toolkit will be updated on an ongoing basis in order to maintain academic relevance. In addition, we welcome your feedback on these pages, and, if you have other good practice examples to share, please get in touch.

Have a Great School Year!

-The ExploreLearning PD Team

Defining a Professional Learning Community

Richard DuFour is an American educational researcher noted for developing strategies to create collaborative teaching environments in K-12 schools.
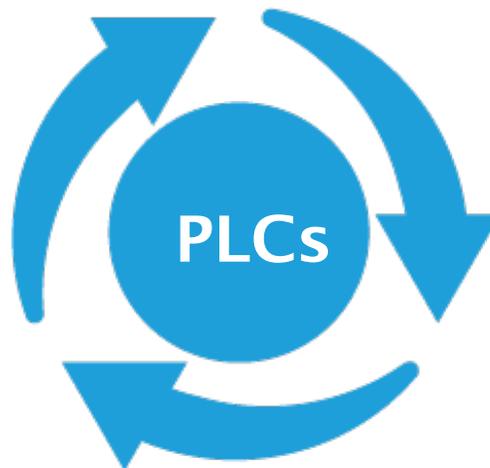
A professional learning community, or PLC, is *a group of educators that **meets regularly, shares expertise,** and **works collaboratively** to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students.*

There are three big ideas according to DuFour that represent the core principles of PLCs.

The Core Principles of PLCs

#3 Focus on Results:
Debrief the lesson delivery
Analyze student work or data-> Gizmos Assessment results and completed Student Exploration Sheets

PLCs

#1 Ensuring Students Learn:
Determine the objective you want the students to meet -> Lesson Materials -> Teacher Guide and Vocabulary Sheets

#2 Culture of Collaboration:
Develop a lesson plan in the PLC. Focus on what students need to learn, and how the learning will be measured -> Lesson Materials -> Teacher Guide -> Critique
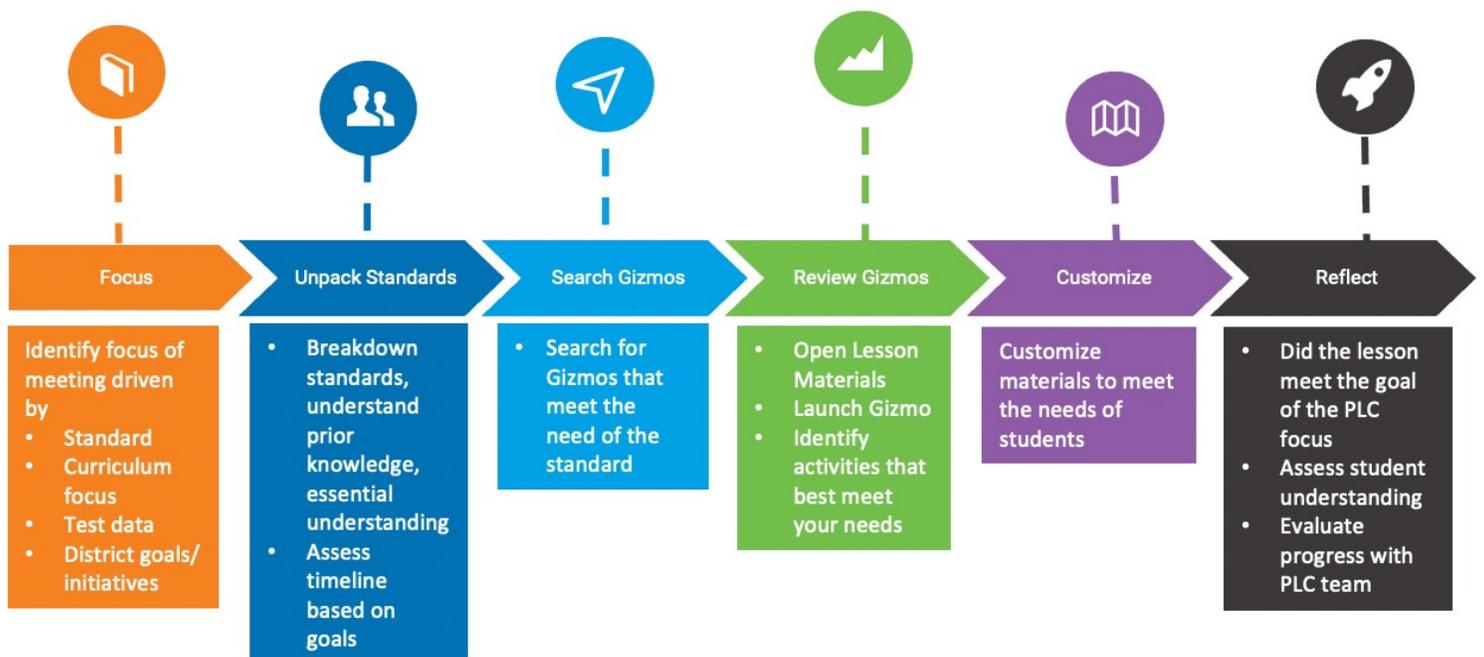
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Gizmos PLC Flowchart

Professional Learning Communities can move through these six components together to collaboratively plan, deliver, and analyze standards-based lessons that include Gizmos.

Focus	Unpack Standards	Search Gizmos	Review Gizmos	Customize	Reflect
Identify focus of meeting driven by • Standard • Curriculum focus • Test data • District goals/initiatives	• Breakdown standards, understand prior knowledge, essential understanding • Assess timeline based on goals	• Search for Gizmos that meet the need of the standard	• Open Lesson Materials • Launch Gizmo • Identify activities that best meet your needs	Customize materials to meet the needs of students	• Did the lesson meet the goal of the PLC focus • Assess student understanding • Evaluate progress with PLC team

Gizmos PLC Planning Tool

Focus 5 – 10 minutes	Identify focus of meeting driven by • Standard • Curriculum focus • Test data • District goals/ initiatives	The focus of the PLC meeting is:	
Unpack the Standards 5- 10 minutes	• Breakdown standards, understand prior knowledge, essential understanding • Assess timeline based on goals	What is the expected student outcome?	
Search Gizmos 5 minutes	• Search for Gizmos that meet the need of the standard	What Gizmo do you plan on using?	How does it meet the need of the goal?
Review Gizmos 20 minutes	• Open Lesson Materials Launch Gizmo • Identify activities that best meet your needs	What part of the materials will you use?	What part of the Gizmo lesson aligns to the standard/objective/outcomes?
Customize 20 minutes	• Customize materials to meet the needs of students How will we respond when some students already know the content?	How is it taught? Whole-group? Small-group? How could the lesson materials be used to create assessments? How can the teachers' guide discussion questions be used to support academic discourse?	Is it effective? What data do we need to be able to analyze the lesson? How will we know when the students have learned the content?
Reflect After lesson	• Did the lesson meet the goal of the PLC focus? • Assess student understanding • Evaluate progress with PLC team • Determine if PLC is on schedule • Clarify the work unit the next PLC	Reflection: How will we respond when some students do not learn the content?	How could the lesson be improve or enhanced?