PRINCIPLES OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE LEARNING COMMUNITIES



1

EXPOSURE TO NEW IDEAS

Regularly share ideas and resources by:

- Participating in book clubs or sharing notes from conferences.
- Curating resources in shared physical or virtual spaces (e.g., Google Drive, Diigo, or Pocket).
- Encouraging teachers to try out new strategies without fear of failure



Folio Features: Ask teachers to share a favorite article on the Community Feed or curate resources for everyone using School Resources



2

MAKE LEARNING VISIBLE

Emphasize learning as a social activity by:

- Sharing thinking processes and ideas to help others react, build, or ask questions.
- Fostering psychological safety to encourage open sharing.



Folio Features: Ask teachers to "Shine a Spotlight" on a colleague at the beginning of a meeting or generate a word cloud using the Five Words feature on Folio profiles



3

BALANCED FEEDBACK

Encourage a culture of constructive feedback by:

- Conducting classroom visits with structured methods for debriefing and reflection.
- Creating opportunities for teachers to engage in informal learning walks and closing the loop with actionable takeaways.



Folio Features: Use Workspaces, Waypoints and Notes Templates for colleagues to provide each other with feedback. Then, use the Activity Feed to share teaching strategies



4

SERENDIPITOUS COLLABORATION

Recognize the value of unstructured interactions by:

- Encouraging informal conversations that spark creativity (e.g., over coffee or during hallway chats).
- Balancing structured and casual opportunities for connection.



Folio Features: Open a meeting by asking colleagues to participate in a Mindful Minute and then have them share with a neighbor. Use the Insights report to check in on individuals who might need it.



5

INDIVIDUAL GOAL SETTING

Build accountability and motivation by:

- Setting and sharing professional goals within the community.
- Celebrating progress and milestones together.



Folio Features: Utilize the Goal Wizard to help teachers work through the goal setting process