

IMPROVING TEACHING SKILLS VIA PEER NETWORKS

by:

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The old clichés such as “two heads are better than one” is true to teachers. Teachers, novice and experts alike, can benefit from learning with colleagues. Productive work relationship is helpful to achieve more.

Lateral work relations should not only be a trait for master teachers but for other teachers as well. Acknowledge and utilize strengths of colleagues Peer networks help teachers learn from each other. They can improve their practice from the advice and mentorship of others. The valuable support also provides positive connection and encourages teachers to stay on the field if they feel strong link with their co-workers.

The peer network helps in providing collective wisdom among the teachers and through that, each can acquire implicit knowledge which books or lectures cannot teach. The skills passed on or shared in a network via first-hand and experiences are more than valuable. The skills such as crafting a strong lesson plan, accurate timing in delivering lessons, unblemished focus, and establishing constructive relationship with students and peers, can be learned from a positive peer network.

During times of struggles, colleagues also draw encouragement from one another. Identifying challenges and coming up with sound plans can be drawn from seasoned teachers and well-meaning colleagues. Sharing of insights can help a teacher come up with sound decisions when face with challenges. As there will be times when teachers become tired or discouraged, helpful affirmations and words of encouragements from their peers can bring them to walk an extra mile despite heavier loads.

Also, the insights from peers can provide techniques they can use when the challenges involve students, their families, and superiors. Hence, having a positive peer network and collaborating with other educators are all essential aspects to improve performance and keep on achieving better results as a teacher, regardless of status or years in service.

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