

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Webster Middle School Recognized as a Model PLC School

CEDARBURG, WI - Webster Middle School has been recognized as a model Professional Learning Community (PLC) at Work®. As one of about 500 Schools and Districts in the US and Canada to receive this honor, Webster was recognized by Solution Tree for its sustained success in raising student achievement. The Cedarburg School District's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work® process was a major contributing factor to the improved achievement of its students.

PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is ongoing, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC are:

1. focus on learning;
2. build a collaborative culture;
3. create a results orientation.



Responding to news of the recognition, Principal Tony DeRosa said, “As a school community, we are extremely proud to have earned this recognition. It genuinely reflects the work taking place at Webster. We began this journey in 2014, and it has taken tremendous dedication, planning, collaboration, and a collective desire to continually learn and grow. Looking back over the last nine years, we reformed our grading practices and policies, changed our master schedule, deepened our knowledge of student data, and used that data strategically to drive our efforts and decisions. We determined essential standards in all content areas, developed common formative and summative assessments and created a multi-tiered

system that focuses on the growth of all students, among many other efforts. I cannot say enough about the work ethic and passion that the educators at Webster possess. Our teaching staff, support staff and office staff all strive to continuously be the best they can be. This is the result of having a team with shared goals. Everyone at Webster shares the commitment that the quest to improve never ends and that all students can achieve at high levels.”

Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstrating a commitment to PLC concepts, implementing these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work®, educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown “...a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey.”

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