

Protocol for Team Study of Students

The purpose of this planning exercise is to examine teacher student relationships using what teachers/teams know or have come to know about their students.

Step 1 (30 minutes)

Teachers individually complete an information form about students on their team. The form lists all the students and asks the teacher(s) to respond to two categories for each one: “something I know about the student as a learner” and “something I know about the student as a person.”

Step 2

The team convenes and the facilitator opens the conversation asking each teacher to answer the following questions:

- Which 2 students were the easiest to write something about?
- Which 2 students were most difficult to write about?

Using the discussion of those two questions, as well as knowledge about the team, the facilitator then raises further questions to the team as appropriate.

- Were you surprised to hear what someone else wrote about any student(s)?
- Do you see any patterns in your comments about students?
- Were comments evenly balanced between positive and negative?
- Were there any differences in what you wrote between boys and girls?
- Were there any differences in what you wrote based on race?
- Do your comments suggest anything about what happens in your classroom curriculum, teaching styles,

Step 3

To close the conversation, the team leader/facilitator uses the following question:

- Given our analysis of what your team wrote about your students are there any actions we ought to take? For example:
- Can the information we have gathered be used to address any ongoing issues or problems?
- Can the information be used to help build community within our team?
- Is there any additional information we should seek about any of our observations?
- Is there a need to verify any of our observations?
- Do we need to revisit any points in our discussion?

Created by Barbara Brodhagen, Ph.D