A Focused & Authentic Professional Learning Community (PLC) is a process where teachers work together to improve their teaching skills. Teachers work in teams and use student information to develop strategies to improve their classroom practices. Professional learning for teachers takes place in all grades, across all academic subjects, and focuses on CARE. CARE represents the four key areas of a complete educational cycle: Curriculum - What do we want all students/staff to know? Assessment - How will we determine students/staff meet mastery/expectations? Remediation - How will we respond to students/staff who do not meet mastery/expectations? Enrichment - How will we respond when students/staff meet or exceed mastery/expectations?

Response to Intervention (RtI) is a process that uses student academic and behavior information to identify students with learning and behavior needs to guarantee that those in danger of failure and/or retention are receiving assistance and support. The RtI process uses a team approach to develop individual academic and behavior plans; keeps track of student progress; provides assistance using academic and behavior strategies that have been proven to work; and identifies students with disabilities. A team of educational professionals and the parents work together to develop individual plans for children's academic success. This process provides students with academic, social, emotional, and community support.

Optimal Internal/External Relationships. A school community that has positive relationships and good communication has the best chance for improving student academic performance. Developing and maintaining relationships with parents, municipalities, business partners, and non-profit organizations leads to motivated staff and students, creates opportunities to celebrate student and employee success, and brings the community together.

Scaling up Best Practices is a way for schools to share strategies to improve student achievement. Working together gives educators opportunities to share what is already working in their schools. By using what is already working, schools:

• Improve the overall quality of services
• Avoid the duplication of effort or "reinventing the wheel"
• Increase productivity and efficiency