

Leveraging Conversations

Topic Overview Video (link) 



Why:

Because of competing priorities, district administrators who oversee gifted and advanced learning services must find connections between their work and the goals of the campus or district, state regulations, and other departmental priorities. Some of these connections may be surprising but they can be fruitful and affirming when approached with the spirit of common goals.

Instructional Implications:

- ⦿ **Reduced silo effect**, increased collaboration, and improved relationships between advanced learning and other departments
- ⦿ **Improved** climate and culture of the advanced learning department
- ⦿ **Increased efficacy** of advanced learning services

Guiding Questions:

- ⦿ What are the goals of the district and/or campus? Is funding tied to any of the goals?
- ⦿ What are the top three priorities of the campus? Do they include student growth? How do your priorities align with or support theirs?
- ⦿ Are you a PLC district? If so, how can you increase access to the PLC meetings to support question 4 (“How will we enrich and extend the learning for students who are proficient”)?
- ⦿ Do you use an achievement assessment? If so, how can you increase support for the high achieving/low growth domain?
- ⦿ How is advanced learning like other special populations?
- ⦿ What other departments should be involved in the planning and implementation of cross-department collaboration? How do you connect with each department?
- ⦿ How can your support be communicated as value-added?
- ⦿ How do you determine which type of interaction to use each time?

3 Best Practices:

1

Identify how your goals support or align with the district and/or campus goals

2

Present your team as experts to address students who are high achieving/low growth

3

Build relationships with campus and department leaders on their turf

Resources:

All Things PLC <https://www.allthingsplc.info/>

Collaboration in a team: A Goal to be achieved. *TwoProject*. <https://twoproject.com/blog/collaboration-in-the-team-a-goal-to-be-achieved/>

Work with others towards shared goals. *People Builders*. <https://www.peoplebuilders.com.au/blog/work-with-others-toward-shared-goals>



Leveraging Conversations Worksheet

Directions: Use these guiding questions to explore opportunities to leverage conversations in your district or school to advance the needs of your gifted program.

1

Consider the goals of your district.

What are the specific priorities for your district's Board of Trustees?

Does your district have an improvement plan?

What are your district's top 3 goals?

2

Are you a PLC district? If so, what opportunities exist within the PLC to enrich and extend learning for advanced academic learners?

3

How can you use your achievement data to identify and support high-achieving / low-growth learners?

4

Can you build cross-departmental connections to support your advanced learners?
Who is your connection for each department listed below? What are their current priorities,
and how can you increase collaboration?

Special Education

Section 504

Facilities

Professional Learning

Counseling

Curriculum

Emerging Bilingual

5

How can your support be valuable for other departments?

Empty rectangular box for writing an answer to the question above.

