

Research says that building relationships with students is critical to their success in school. The district understands the importance of relationships and has made this a focal point by implementing the Whole Child Initiative, 5-D teacher evaluations, and now PLC plus. Specialist are charged with the task of building relationships with all 400-500 students in their buildings utilizing the 30-60 minutes we see them weekly.

For the 20/21 school year my school is designated to have PE 4 days per week (M,W,Th,F). I have been assigned another school on Tuesday and Wednesday. Since I won't be at my home school on Wednesdays another PE teacher from a 1.0 school will cover my Wednesday classes. That teacher's home school Wednesday classes will be covered by a PE teacher from another school. What is the impact of this move? Myself and the 2 other teachers will not be at our home schools for professional development and PLC plus, which is designed to strengthen relationships with teachers and develop comprehensive approaches to help all of the students become successful academically, emotionally, and socially.

Being out of my home school on Wednesdays means I have 1 less day to build relationships with all of my students, which impacts Whole Child and my 5-D teacher evaluation and student success. It has taken a tremendous amount of time to get to know all of my students and what it takes to motivate them, how to diffuse and reset them when they are upset, how hard to push them physically in PE, and how to modify their activity due to medical concerns. I won't know any of this information when I arrive at my other assigned school. The same holds true for the teacher covering for me and the teacher covering for them.

Finally, this affects my planning. I now need to coordinate with the teacher covering classes at my home school and with the home teacher at my newly assigned school. This planning will need to take place sometime outside of the school day, because we will never be together at the same school. I want to close by asking one question: Is this what is best for kids?

-Steve Johnson, Physical Education Educator, Lowell Elementary