

# Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202

We prepare learners for the future.



---

## Administration Center

15732 Howard Street  
Plainfield, IL 60544  
[www.learningcommunity202.org](http://www.learningcommunity202.org)

(815) 577-4008 – telepho  
(815) 436-7824 – main f

April, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202 has had a very productive partnership with the Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) for the last five years. In that time frame we have had well over 500 staff participate in an exceptional curriculum development process that has raised teacher knowledge and alignment skills used in standard-based curriculum, assessment development, and resource selection. We currently have common local assessments across all grade levels, a PK-12 vertical and horizontal aligned curriculum, and resources selected to support our curriculum in several core areas. One of the very first steps we took to initiate the partnership was to develop a five year curriculum development plan that has guided our work thus far.

As a district, we have had the opportunity to work with one CLI consultant, assigned to our district. This consultant, Rhonda Renfro, has brought such knowledge and expertise to every in-service and training meeting. She has truly taken the time to “learn” our district. Teachers and administrators communicate with her frequently and she is truly viewed as one of our own staff members. There have even been occasions when we have met with a group of other outside consultants to plan and customize professional development so that everything we do is aligned and supporting of our curriculum development model. I say “our” model because where there is a framework, CLI works very closely with district staff to honor the district’s culture, strategic plan and initiatives.

Any initiative is ultimately deemed successful by the impact that it has on student achievement. A comparison of state achievement data with four neighboring school districts shows that PCCSD 202 has had greater achievement gains than these four large districts. Students gained twenty percentage points overall in comparison to these like districts that gained between five to twelve percentage points over the same five year period. Achievement gains have improved in both reading and math since the implementation of the CLI Model. As we also disaggregated our data, we noted even greater gains with our NCLB subgroups. We have worked very closely with CLI to assure that our curriculum, resources and assessments are not only rigorous but are also able to meet the needs of our fast growing and changing student population.

The CLI Model has not only had a positive impact on student achievement, the model has also provided teachers with a framework that establishes rigor, a common vocabulary and a common

understanding underlying standards-based instruction. I personally observed the power of this model when in a recent review of assessment materials a teacher critiqued the assessment based on our assessment criteria and actually found flaws in a published assessment. The teacher was able to clearly identify the flaw in the assessment, identify the level of rigor and provide some ideas for how the assessment could be improved. Teachers were not able to do this prior to our partnership with CLI.

The Curriculum Leadership Institute has been instrumental and supportive while our district created a systemic and systematic approach to curriculum development. I would wholeheartedly recommend the Curriculum Leadership Institute to any system that is very serious about improving student achievement. If you are interested in a written, tested and taught curriculum that is tightly aligned, the CLI process is the partnership you would want. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have and can be reached at 815-572-4027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen I. Acevedo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Carmen I. Acevedo  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction