

# FAIRMONT

## Student Learning Communities

### Concept

Student Learning Communities are a heterogeneous, teacher-formed group of students that work with each other on authentic, purposeful tasks. SLCs are a direct reflection of the 4 Cs where students are empowered to be facilitators of their own learning and learn to work together with a common goal in mind.

### Culture

“WE have created a culture of collaboration, focused on learning, that inspires and empowers students to own their educational experience.”

Fairmont Staff

### Connection

#### Cultural Shifts in a Professional Learning Community

##### A Shift in Fundamental Purpose

From a focus on teaching . . .	to a focus on learning
From emphasis on what was taught . . .	to emphasis on what students learned
From coverage of content . . .	to demonstration of proficiency
From providing individual teachers with curriculum documents such as state standards and curriculum guides . . .	to engaging collaborative teams in building shared knowledge regarding essential curriculum

##### A Shift in Use of Assessments

From infrequent summative assessments . . .	to frequent common formative assessments
From assessments to determine which students failed or were by the deadline . . .	to assessments to identify students who need additional time and support
From assessments used to reward and punish students . . .	to assessments used to improve and motivate students
From assessing many things infrequently . . .	to assessing a few things frequently
From individual teacher assessments . . .	to assessments developed jointly by collaborative teams
From each teacher determining the criteria to be used in assessing student work . . .	to collaborative teams clarifying the criteria and ensuring consistency among team members when assessing student work
From an over-reliance on one kind of assessment . . .	to balanced assessments
From focusing on average scores . . .	to monitoring each student's proficiency in every essential skill

##### A Shift in the Response When Students Don't Learn

From individual teachers determining the appropriate response . . .	to a systematic response that ensures support for every student
From fixed time and support for learning . . .	to time and support for learning as variables
From remediation . . .	to intervention
From invitational support outside of the school day . . .	to directed (that is, required) support occurring during the school day
From one opportunity to demonstrate learning . . .	to multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning

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### Celebrate



### 21st Century Learning

SLCs provide the framework for 21st Century Learning. The 4Cs: Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity, are fabrics of SLCs. Embracing the Universal Design for Learning approach, Fairmont continues to push the limits of innovative practices enhancing student learning and all forms of engagement. Collaborative competition is the name of the game!

