



IT WORKED!

The PLC that Worked

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Our department is part of the Frederick County Classroom-Focused Improvement Process (CFIP) and, therefore, charged with instruction improvement. We decided to focus on perseverance, included in the first one of CCSS's *Standards for Mathematical Practice* (SMP), because we noticed our students would give up even before attempting to attack a math task.

We spent a great deal of time in our Professional Learning Community (PLC) discussing what it actual means to persevere and what it looks like from the student's perspective as well as from our own. This discussion led to the construction of a rubric we would use to evaluate the process. We, in turn, decided the students needed a "bookmark" of questions, focusing on the skill of being able to persevere, that they could use to help them through a math task. Teachers were excited by the prospect that, using this bookmark, students would be able to make their way through the task and generate some discourse with their peers.

We were able to establish "look-fors" for both students and teachers by using this process. A bookmark that was initially created for students, became a checklist to use for self-evaluation and a guided problem solving sheet to help students through SMP #1.

How do I know it worked? Teachers are excited about the next step in the process. Students are no longer giving up before they begin, they are feeling successful. If it will work with math tasks, how about everyday math problems and assessments?

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