



# Smaller Learning Communities

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Increasing Support For Student  
Achievement.

# Why NHHS Is Moving Toward SLC's...

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- The data tells us that some kids are being left out...
  - NHHS receives \$135,536.00 per year for 5 years which must be spent to create and/or expand Smaller Learning Communities...
  - A commitment to SLC's already exists on this campus...
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# Defining a Smaller Learning Community...

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“Any separately defined, individualized learning unit within a larger school setting. Students and teachers are scheduled together and frequently have a common area in which to hold most or all of their classes.”

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# Purpose of the SLC Grant:

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- To create close, personal environments in which teachers can work collaboratively with each other and with a set of students
  - To take student support and learning to new levels.
  - To recast existing school structures so that they can better meet the academic and social needs of students.
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# PLC's: The Cornerstone of the SLC Movement...

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## Professional Learning Communities (PLC's):

- Replace teacher isolation with teacher networks.
  - Allow for collaboration among teachers.
  - Encourage best practices.
  - Reduce the achievement gap among sub-groups
  - Allow teachers to know students better
  - Set high academic expectations for all students.
  - Allow reform to develop collaboratively.
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# Evidence that SLC's Work...

- Student teacher relationships in small schools are deeper, more supportive, both academically and personally, than is typical in larger, comprehensive high schools.\*
- Small schools show strong evidence of teacher professional community and distributed leadership.\*
- Surveys of students, teachers and principals in small schools were significantly more positive...on every measure of school climate, professional community, and active teaching and learning.\*
- Student outcomes like engagement and academic self concept appear stronger in smaller school settings.\*

\*Based on the independent study done by The American Institutes for Research and prepared for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's National School District and Networks Grant Program.

# Why this is a good fit for NHHS...

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- We're a leader in SLC's and we're best when we're small.
  - Every student on campus deserves the same SLC experience as only some students are getting now.
  - We're already reviewing how we can move forward as a school community – WASC.
  - SLC development is consistent with our strategic plan.
  - There's more money for professional development, across the curriculum.
  - We'll be able to find out more about the effectiveness of our SLC's.
  - The grant will allow us to further develop Professional Learning Communities.
  - This can improve our API scores.
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# What SLC's can do for NHHS

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- **Improve literacy and math scores.**
  - **Offer more Personalized instruction to ALL students.**
  - **Improve instructional practice and encourage collegiality among instructors.**
  - **Enhance the Rigor in ALL classes for ALL students.**
  - **Offer other options (like career/technical, for example) and technology skills to ALL students.**
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# SLC's at NHHS in 2006-2007:

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- Every student in an SLC in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.
  - Every student in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade known well by an adult on campus.
  - Teachers in existing SLC's collaborating across disciplines during common conference periods.
  - Improved academic achievement of all NHHS students.
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# SLC's at NHHS in 2006-2007:



## SLC's

Da Vinci      Math and science

Magellan      social science and global studies

Franklin      business and technology

NEW: 2 General Education SLC's

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## Support Systems

AVID, Freshman Seminar, Intervention within SLC's

