***Defining Professional Learning Teams***

*After reviewing the notion of Collaboration RIGHT versus Collaboration LITE and watching Rick DuFour describe the differences between groups and collaborative teams (*[*http://bit.ly/grouporteam*](http://bit.ly/grouporteam)*), spend a few minutes working up a definition of just what a professional learning team is – and then rate your own learning team against your definition.*

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| --- | --- |
| ***Professional learning teams ARE***: | ***Professional learning teams ARE NOT***: |
| ***Things I would likely see in a meeting of a highly functioning professional learning team:*** | ***Things I probably wouldn’t see in a meeting of a highly functioning professional learning team:*** |

***RATING YOUR CURRENT COLLABORATIVE TEAM*** :

*If you could only use* ***one word****, how would you describe the current standing of your learning team? Are you still in the* ***BEGINNING*** *stages of the transition from a group to a team? Have you* ***MASTERED*** *any of the key practices of a PLC? Are you* ***EXCELLING*** *in your growth together?*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GROUP | BEGINNING | MASTERING | EXCELLING | TEAM |

***QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:***

1. How does your current collaborative team stack up against your own definition of a professional learning team?
2. What collaborative behaviors has your current team already mastered? What collaborative behaviors is your current team struggling with? What barriers are preventing your team from moving forward together?
3. If you were in charge, what ONE core behavior would you spend the next year working on? Why is that behavior the right behavior for your learning team to tackle together this year?
4. How will your collaborative peers answer these questions? Will they see the same strengths as you do? Will they see the same weaknesses? Will they identify the same core behavior as you did? Why/Why not?
5. What specific training and/or support will you need from people working beyond the classroom to improve the work of your collaborative team?