



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Warder Elementary Recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work™ One of About 200 Schools and Districts in the US and Canada to Receive This Honor

Golden, CO (December 4, 2018) -- Warder elementary was recently recognized by Solution Tree for its sustained success in raising student achievement. The school's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work™ process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students.

PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is on-going, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to:

1. Focus on learning.
2. Build a collaborative culture.
3. Create a results orientation.

Responding to news of the recognition, Matt Hilbert, principal at Warder said, "Warder is honored to be recognized as a National PLC School. Our teachers are incredibly reflective and continuously use data to drive instruction for all of our learners. In fact, the collaborative process has moved from what we do, to who we are as a learning organization." In addition, Jackie Smutz responded, "As the Instructional Coach at Warder Elementary, I have been in awe of our teachers for the past 4 years. The PLC framework has pushed on their thinking and molded reflective teachers who are changing instructional practices to meet the needs of ALL students in their classrooms. We are not perfect. We are not finished. We are on a journey that is making a difference for children."

Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results are evident, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work™, educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown "a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey."

Recognized model PLC schools are listed on <http://www.allthingsplc.info/>, where they share implementation strategies, structures, and performance with other educators interested in improving their schools. Tools for team collaboration, articles and research about PLCs, blog posts, and other related resources are also available on the site. The site was developed and is maintained by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance. For more than 20 years, Solution Tree resources have helped K-12 teachers and administrators create schools where all children succeed.

For more information about the Warder recognition or PLCs, please contact:

Matthew Hilbert, Principal of Warder Elementary

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About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 65 years. The district serves over 86,000 students at 155 schools. Jeffco Public Schools is dedicated to changing the classroom experience through Readiness for Learning, Conditions for Learning, and Learning as outlined in the [Jeffco Generations strategic vision](#). Find [Jeffco Public Schools](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).