

Collegial (Congenial) Harmony or True Collaboration

In your group, discuss the instances of collegial harmony and true collaboration listed below. What would you say are the key characteristics of “true collaboration” among teachers in a learning community?

Teachers engage in collegial harmony when they...	Teachers engage in true collaboration in a learning community when they...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in informal conversation about teaching • Share information about students • Give spontaneous advice in conversations with colleagues • Share new ideas for classroom activities at faculty or unit meetings • Offer resources to another teacher when asked • Offer to help a new colleague plan a unit or lesson • Serve as a sounding board for frustrations and complaints from colleagues • Problem solve with another teacher about strategies for responding to a difficult situation in the classroom • Share what they are doing in their classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and assess lessons together • Create common curricula and assessments • Meet regularly in established learning teams with an agenda that focuses on teaching and learning • Share learning results • Analyze learning results as a way of identifying effective practices • Adjust their own teaching in response to learning results and team decisions • Set learning improvement goals for the team • Observe each other’s teaching and offer constructive feedback

Key characteristics of True Collaboration in a learning community: