School-based professional development and a culture of professional collaboration improve instruction and student achievement and cultivate adult learning communities within the school. Effective professional learning communities feature continuous reflection and assessment of student work and teacher practice.
**Meaningful assessment** of student learning occurs continuously and gives students a variety of opportunities to demonstrate that they meet content and performance standards and can apply their learning. Teachers use assessments as diagnostic tools to identify student needs and improve instruction. The school communicates and analyzes assessment results to inform school improvement.

**Partnerships with organizations** strengthen the ability of the school to serve the academic and developmental needs of its students and to forge bonds with students’ families or caregivers. Effective partnerships help keep the school in touch with the wider community and professional networks, enable it to capitalize on opportunities and resources that support student success, and increase its sustainability.

**Parent and caregiver engagement** is an ongoing process that integrates families into the life of the school in a variety of ways. The result is a partnership, driven by parent demand and cultivated by the school community, in which parents and caregivers have voice and power to shape all components of the school. The school assumes that any person trusted by the student’s family can be a partner for achieving youth success.

**Student voice and participation** ensure that students have significant opportunities to collaborate with school staff, exercise leadership, and make choices and decisions. Students have clear areas of input and participation and are actively involved in decisions regarding their classrooms, school, campus, and community.

**Integration of technology into teaching and learning** allows all students to access and analyze information, communicate ideas, and express themselves creatively. Teachers have adequate equipment and professional development to enable them to implement technology-enhanced lessons. Students learn to navigate diverse information sources, including print, visual, and audio materials, through the explicit teaching of information literacy skills.