

Plumsted Township School District

New Egypt, Ocean County

Striking a balance between what is good and what is mandated can be a challenge. In many districts, especially those that are in the midst of administrative transition, individual staff members often lead projects that are meaningful and provide work satisfaction. This approach may benefit a school by allowing a creative outlet and encouraging passion in the classroom; on the other hand it may isolate initiatives that are difficult to scale and may lead to scattered efforts.

Midway through the NJSSP work on the Common Core initiative and the associated PARCC assessments began, which demanded additional time and resources from the district. As these standards and testing practices were rolled out, districts like Plumsted focused on revising their curriculum standards, which diminished the resources available for other activities. A secondary challenge arose out of the varying contractual start and end times at each building, which made it difficult for the district group to meet with any regularity. Stipends and monetary support became part of the discussion that circled back to finding ways to make progress on district initiatives that are not mandated but result in planned and unplanned benefits to the district and the educational community.

MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE

Reduce polystyrene trays by **25%**

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

- ability to juggle multiple projects
- communication, communication, communication
- ability to collaborate, but delegate when the need arises

“ WORDS OF WISDOM

Do this because you believe in it. Our team started with a focus on compliance. Those who are left – and will continue to do this work – are those who believe.

Colleen Gravel,
Director of Special Projects ”

PILOT PROJECT PROFILES

