

Next Steps

Please complete the following Next Steps, to integrate your experiences within your own schools and communities with the information presented in this chapter.

1. When teachers look at achievement test data, it quickly becomes evident that some teachers are much more effective than others. One way to gain strength as a team of teachers and to actively help each other is to plan professional development in which teachers most effective with certain subjects or topics are invited to share how they do it. You might also encourage teacher-to-teacher observations followed by discussion and debriefing. These types of efforts tend to build a team spirit and enrich morale.
2. A strong school staff have a strong sense of shared beliefs. You might try anonymous surveys of a few basic principles of education: Do you believe all kids can learn with adequate instruction and support? Do you believe that parents of poor children or youth care for their children and support the school?
3. Are you a member of a union, or have you participated in collective bargaining? What is your experience in your area, and how well do unions represent and support members?
4. If your district has implemented the PLC process, compare your experience to what is described.
5. Complete the modes of regulation chart (page 198) to discover more about your self-regulation strategies. Make a plan to incorporate more into your week. Share with your teaching team.