SUPPORTING THE OHIO IMPROVEMENT PROCESS (OIP) WITH OLAC

As assistant superintendent at Western Brown Local Schools, Jina Bohl wears many different hats. From supporting the OIP to helping staff with individual professional development needs, Jina is working with educators throughout her district to leverage OLAC tools to support their goals.
HOW I’M USING OLAC TOOLS

I first began using OLAC resources in 2008, when our district was first going through the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) and headed toward a more team-based approach. The OLAC modules are a great way to encourage people to learn more and become more aware of our district’s initiatives. One of the greatest uses of the OLAC resources has been to support teachers’ individual growth through their improvement plans. If I see an area of growth needed for a teacher, I can identify a specific OLAC video or resource to help that teacher. The videos are very focused and helpful. For example, Stage 3 of the OIP is really intense, and we were able to use the OLAC videos and work together through this stage.

MY FAVORITE OLAC TOOLS

The Evaluation Crosswalk is a phenomenal tool for anyone pursuing licensure. This tool helped me to understand where I felt proficient, and where I thought I needed additional support. I also really like the resources that help guide quality feedback for teams, which align nicely with the work in the OIP. The OLAC resources are comprehensive and relevant, and are applicable to the issues educators are facing in districts, schools, and classrooms. The best part about the OLAC resources is that they are user-friendly and free!

OLAC’S IMPACT

When it comes to professional development, I believe it’s best done when it’s local and done in our own professional learning communities. We have 10 internal facilitators in our district who are using the OIP, and are planning district leadership team (DLT) meetings and supporting the OIP structures in the district. As a result of the OLAC tools, we have seen our facilitators become more efficient in planning for meetings, more qualified in knowledge and awareness because of the process of the OIP, and better able to address challenges in the OIP process.