MODELING THE USE OF OLAC RESOURCES: A SUPERINTENDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

The Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) connects educators—superintendents, principals, teachers, and other leaders—with the resources they need, including reflective questions, videos, modules, webinars, podcast episodes, and more to provide the right kind of professional development that supports shared and effective leadership at every level.
We’re excited to showcase voices from the field through our blog, e-newsletters, and social media. If you have experienced results using OLAC tools and would like to be featured, please contact Jim Gay at jimgay@basa-ohio.org or Karel Oxley at oxley@basa-ohio.org.

WHY I’M USING OLAC TOOLS
When I’m looking for professional learning resources, the most important thing for me is to know that they’re based in research and that the content is developed or endorsed by experts in the field. Knowing that provides instant credibility. One of the things that I like most about the OLAC resources, is hearing from other Ohio educators and seeing educators and teams in action. When I share these resources with my staff and they can see other Ohio educators doing the work and how it applies to their practice, it helps create buy-in.

MY FAVORITE OLAC TOOLS
My favorite resources are the educator evaluation crosswalks. In my roles as curriculum director and as a teacher and principal evaluator, the crosswalks have been helpful in terms of how to handle the professionalism of teaching and being instructional leaders. The Coaching and Collaborative Process modules have also been great resources.

OLAC’S IMPACT
After using the OLAC resources for several years, I can say that they have helped me to better facilitate the work of our teacher-based teams (TBTs). When I work with teachers directly, I am able to draw upon the things that I’ve learned, including how to better respond to data, how to effectively reflect on my practice, and how to develop my coaching skills. I’ve also seen tremendous growth in our BLTs and TBTs and how they work together. It’s been great to see principals, assistant principals, and teacher leaders using the same language and developing an understanding of everyone’s roles and responsibilities to support our Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) plans.

ADVICE FOR THOSE WHO AREN’T USING OLAC RESOURCES
OLAC’s resources are for everyone—whether you’re a district or building leader or a classroom teacher, you can find a variety of resources to support your professional learning, independently or with teams. The resources cover a variety of topics—everything from the Ohio Improvement Process to better facilitating your BLTs and TBTs. Because the OLAC resources are available online and are free, they are great for those seeking credit hours or renewing their license. If you’ve not attended the annual Action Forum, that’s a great face-to-face learning experience where you can network and learn from other Ohio educators. It’s one of my favorite professional learning events every year.