Identifying Critical Standards

Team Pointers for a Successful Planning Experience

* Set team “norms.” Norms help you to play nice and keep nice with others.
* Define your system for team participation. Example: All teachers look over the standards and report out in round robin fashion by identifying a standard they feel is CRITICAL, giving an explanation of their choice. Explanation should include how the choice reflects the three criteria of Leverage, Endurance, and Success in School. Others reveal if they chose that standard too with discussion. (More on this vocabulary coming next.)
* Stay on Track: IF your discussion begins with, “I chose this standard because it is what we already do…” or “I chose this standard because it is covered in our textbook…” Stop and look at the three criteria for identifying CRITICAL standards again.
* Realize that it is unlikely there will be full agreement on every standard, and when there is, CELEBRATE.
* Realize that identifying Critical Standards does not mean throwing out all of the other standards. It just means the Critical Standards will be emphasized most during instruction, assessed more formally, and will be those for which intervention (additional time and support) will be provided.