



Episode 24: Personalized Learning, Standards-Based Grading, Redesigning Professional Development...

by Jane Sigford Year Published: April 19, 2019

Steve Jones, Superintendent of Little Falls Community Schools, talks about their work toward personalized learning, standards-based grading, redesigning professional development, and offering different career pathways for students. In addition, Steve has a working relationship with community businesses that profits both businesses and the schools. His educational philosophy has led him to concentrate on relationships with students, families, and the community. It seems that there is a climate in Little Falls that encourages innovation and yet keeps what has worked in the past to create a new future.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your district's understanding of personalized learning?
2. If you are in the process of incorporating personalized learning, where are you in the process? Where is your professional development? Standards-based grading?
3. What is the educational philosophy that underpins your work?
4. What does the community understand about personalized learning?
5. Do you have a timeline for the process? If so, have you allowed enough time for the changes to become part of the culture?
6. What is your relationship with the business community in your area? Is there anything that Steve Jones talked about that gave you ideas of things you could incorporate?
7. Was the information about Modern Teacher of interest to you? Why or why not?
8. What do you see as the biggest hurdles to ensure that learning is personalized for all students?
9. What is the biggest reason to incorporate personalized learning?
10. How do we know that personalized learning isn't just another fad?