

Personalized Learning in Action **Cumberland High School, Cumberland, RI**

Cumberland High School's leadership team realized that to implement personalized learning for their students, they needed to apply the same approach to their staff's professional development. Instead of implementing a standard personalized learning model across the school, the Cumberland administrative team gave their teachers a framework for personalization, including elements like real-time assessment, flexible learning environment, and deeper learning. Teachers were encouraged to implement these elements in their classroom in ways that worked best for them and their students.

To support teacher development to implement personalized learning, Jessie Butash, the Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning, and her administrative team try to support each educator in the areas the educator needs the most help. Faculty are able to choose workshops and webinars they are most interested in for their own development and are often asked to reflect on what worked well for them in the PD and what did not. This model takes extensive planning and many intentional choices; the Assistant Principals of Teaching Learning have the freedom from day-to-day discipline to provide this advanced level of professional support for their teachers.

Cumberland High School also uses coaching and peer-to-peer walkthroughs to support personalized learning. Teachers can request coaching from either the Assistant Principals or the Instructional Technology Coach that the school has hired. Teachers are also asked to conduct regular, short walkthroughs of other classrooms with iWalkthrough tool, resulting in close to 1000 classroom visits, with detailed data about where teachers need more support, over the last year.

These updates to professional development and support are a powerful model for Cumberland teachers who can see the benefits of personalization for their own learning.