

Reflective Practice In

IB Standards and Practice

How do the IB Standards and Practices support a reflective practice in professional learning communities? (you can give examples of specific practices that achieve this goal and explain how they do so)

Keeping these practices in mind, what are the strong points and areas for improvement in your current school (or a school in which you completed a practicum)?

IB Standards and Practices and Reflective Practice

The overarching goal of creating a better world through education is what drives the IB's philosophy and framework. IB schools all over the world have a shared purpose and mission with the IB so that they can successfully integrate the IB philosophy in their learning environment. In order to succeed, schools follow the IB Standards and Practices that facilitate continuous growth and improvement in schools. As educators we all appreciate and understand that, following guidelines without questioning or reviewing them may not always help us achieve the desired outcomes. Therefore, the IB Standards and Practices include reviews and reflections which encourage continuous improvement. Some such standards and practices are as follows:

Under the standard Providing essential structure, systems and resources IB schools put in place competent leaders who ensure good governance to maintain a high-quality education. This is done through regular reviews to check for compliance with IB rules, regulations and guidelines. For example – An IB school has the practice of having coordinators who help teachers follow the guidelines. This help is extended in the form of guidance during unit planning, peer evaluation to check and give feedback on the implementation of the plan, and ideas on improving implementation.

In the environment part of the framework, IB schools follow the practice of allocating adequate resources to support collaborative planning amongst subject specialists and classroom teachers for transdisciplinary learning. This is done through various steps like keeping in touch and communicating with the IB community, and engagement in the local, national and international contexts. Communicating and engaging with external sources is critical to a school's own reflective practice because it helps them

identify the missing elements or the gaps in practices that are hindering compliance with IB standards.

Additionally, IB follows the practice of providing time and other resources for teachers to collaborate effectively in the implementation of IB program(s). IB schools allocate dedicated and scheduled and/or timetabled time for teachers' collaborative planning and reflection. This is such a great way to support teachers in their reflective practice. When dedicated time is scheduled, teachers are able to focus and have productive meetings where they reflect collaboratively and critically to come up with better teaching strategies, creative assessment practices and the creation of ideal learning environments.

Finally, the IB standards and practices ensures the implementation, communication and regular reviews of assessment policy or policies to help create a culture of continuous learning and growth. These reviews are an effective way of reflecting on the assessment practices of the school and of evaluating if the ATLs are being learnt and demonstrated. Creative assessments will bring out all the development and use of all the ATLs by the students.

Areas of Improvement for a school

The school that I worked in and the one that I volunteer in currently, are both non IB schools. While there was extensive collaborative activity to support reflections, discussions, and improvement plans in teaching strategies in my previous school, the current school has none. There also wasn't enough being done to review assessment practices in both the previous and current school. Teachers could allow students to have a say in how they should be assessed, these suggestions should then be discussed at staff review meetings and tested in the classrooms to determine if the desired outcomes were achieved.