Teachers Helping Teachers

A Thirty-minute Problem Solving Model

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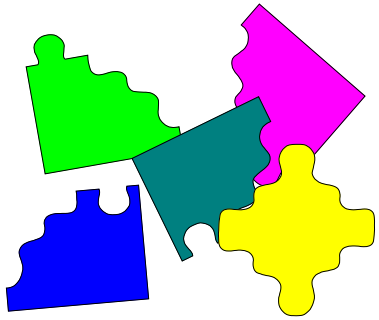
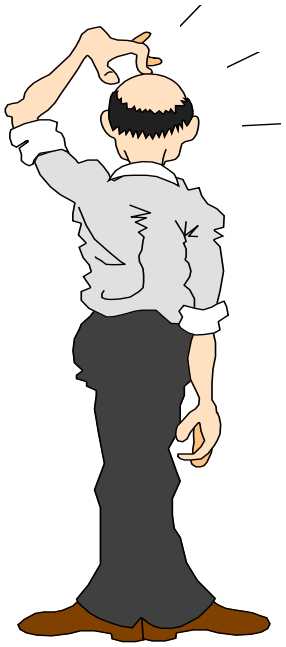
Why School-based Problem Solving?

- **Immediacy - it offers something right away.**
- **Ownership - control stays with the teacher.**
- **Relevance - strategies are selected by those involved based on expressed need.**
- **Empowering - it gets people moving.**
- **Success - uses strengths as a base for change.**
- **Collaborative - one idea stimulates another - people piggy-back**



Problem Solving Strategies



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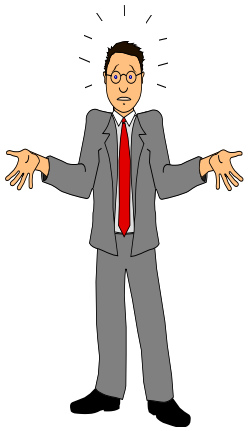

Problem-solving Options

- ***Deal with it yourself.***
- ***Seek collaborative support from a peer***
- ***Seek help from a Support Teacher***
- ***Consult an expert***
- ***Participate in a problem-solving process like "Teachers Helping Teachers".***

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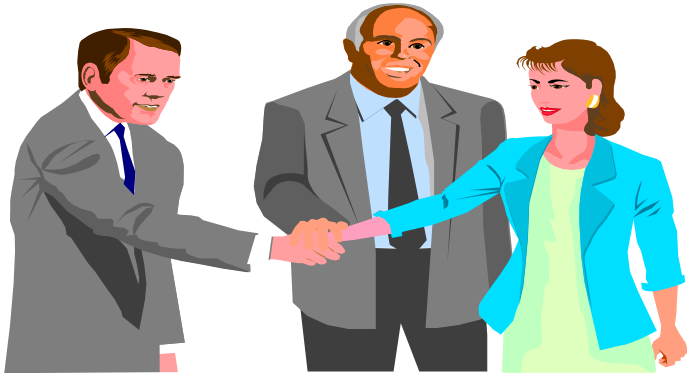
Teachers Helping Teachers

30 Minute Problem Solving Teams That Work



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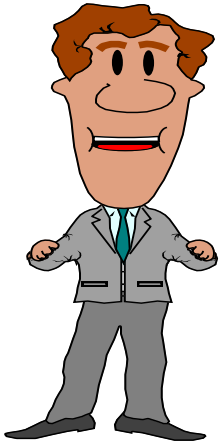
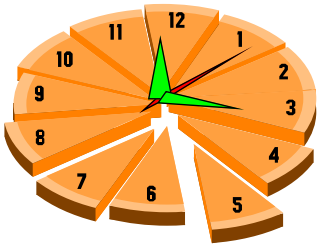


Problem Solving Teams …

- With the most challenging situations, we can all feel powerless - a team meeting can help us refocus.
- Team Members with different backgrounds add to the range of possible strategies.



Problem Solving Teams …

- A structured time-limited problem-solving meeting can be the quickest way to see a plan develop for the student.

- Ownership and control stays with the classroom teacher, but support and assistance are inherent results of the process.

Teachers Helping Teachers

- **Peer problem-solving teams**
- **30 - minutes**
- **Chaired by support teacher**
- **Shatters dependence on “expert solutions”**
- **Helps support a collaborative school environment**

Critical Step – prior to scheduling a meeting -

- Make sure you have made “due diligence” effort to deal with the problem in other ways:

1. Collaborative support from EST-Resource
2. Linking teacher with peer who might help
3. Looking at possible strategies from research or sources on the web

Most important -

- Work with the teacher to clearly state the purpose of the meeting – **the goal or outcome** looked for – in concrete terms.
- Think about what exactly the teacher wants changed in the situation – with an individual student – or something more systemic.
  - **"What will be different from the present?"**
  - **"What will change?"**
  - **"What would this look like in the short & medium term – on the way to the long-term goal?"**
  - **"How do you vision the new reality?"**

7 Step Process:

1. Define the problem & process - Problem description - what must change?
2. Hear from the person with the problem - Problem partialization - what is a priority?
3. Clarify the facts – the problem and the context
4. Brainstorm possible strategies – what might work?
5. Select promising strategies – making a choice
6. Make a plan for implementation and follow-up – trying it out
7. Close the meeting

Follow-up:

Evaluation & Feedback –

How did it work?
Do we need to do more?

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