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PRESS RELEASE

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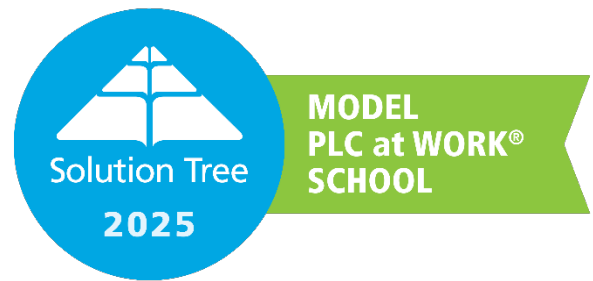
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Matt Arthur Elementary School Recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work®

One of About 600 Schools and Districts in the US and Canada to Receive This Honor

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Matt Arthur Elementary School was recently recognized by Solution Tree for its sustained success in raising student achievement. The school's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work® process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students. Bonaire Elementary, Bonaire Primary, Eagle Springs Elementary, Houston County High, and Shirley Hills Elementary have previously earned this designation. The Houston County School District was also named a Model Professional Learning Community at Work® District in 2023.



PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is on-going, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to:

1. Focus on learning.
2. Build a collaborative culture.
3. Create a results orientation.

“Being named as a Model PLC at Work® school is an honor for all of us at Matt Arthur Elementary,” said Dr. VaRee Harrell, Principal of Matt Arthur Elementary School. “This award recognizes the outstanding work of our teachers as they help our students grow academically. The heart of our successful school is a team of passionate, dedicated educators who work collaboratively for the benefit of all our students.”

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Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work[®], educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown “a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey.”

Recognized model PLC schools are listed on <https://www.allthingsplc.info>, where they share implementation strategies, structures, and performance with other educators interested in improving their schools. Tools for team collaboration, articles and research about PLCs, blog posts, and other related resources are also available on the site. The site was developed and is maintained by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance. For more than 25 years, Solution Tree resources have helped K–12 teachers and administrators create schools where all children succeed.

Matt Arthur Elementary is located at 2500 Highway 127 in Kathleen. For more information about the school, visit <https://maes.hcbe.net/>.

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