

### **Wagon Wheel Protocol (Modified from NSRF):**

To stimulate powerful thinking between people who might not know each other; to create a vivid image bank of a new idea in action to inform the planning process.

**Set up:** (For each group of eight) Arrange four chairs back to back at the hub of the wheel and four chairs on the outer circle facing the chairs at the hub; 4 topics to explore

#### **Directions:**

1. Participants bring paper/pen with them.
2. Participants take notes of their own ideas and their partner's.
3. People on outside of wheel will move one seat to the right at each rotation; people at the hub remain seated.
4. Partners will brainstorm responses to each question for approximately 5 minutes and will have 4 different partners.
5. For each question, first have partners reach a common understanding of what the topic means and then brainstorm responses.
6. At the end of each rotation, ask each participant sitting on the outside of the wheel to rotate one seat to the right. Then ask the next question. Remind partners to reach a common understanding before brainstorming.

**TOPICS** (Depending on size of group, may need additional topics):

#### **7 Standards for Professional Learning**

Learning Communities

Leadership

Resources

Data

Learning Designs

Implementation

Outcomes

**Rounds:** (Establish common understanding before each round)

- a. Brainstorm possible outcomes associated with this standard—the looks like/sounds like descriptors.
- b. Brainstorm strategies to achieve the outcomes identified in round one.

- c. Brainstorm potential challenges or barriers to successfully implementing this standard.
  - d. Generate a sample vision a school/district might develop around this standard.
7. Put large flip chart sheets around the room for each of the Professional Learning Standards.
8. After all four topics have been discussed, participants write their favorite ideas generated for each question on post-it notes and post to the appropriate chart (the PL standard they focused on during the rounds).
9. Each group of 8 gathers around their poster to synthesize/sum up the posted ideas.
10. Ask a representative from each small group to share out with the large group.
11. After all groups have shared, return to the final slide: *Visioning at All Levels*. This same protocol can be used at the school level to develop a shared vision of professional learning that is clear and compelling. This connects to the revised TILS Standard C: Professional Learning and Growth, Indicator 1: Collaborates with stakeholders to establish, communicate, and facilitate a clear, compelling vision for professional learning and growth.
12. Inform participants that we will compile the ideas generated in all three sessions and make those available after the conference.

Protocols are most powerful and effective when used within an ongoing professional learning community such as a Critical Friends Group® and facilitated by a skilled coach. To learn more about professional learning communities and seminars for new or experienced coaches, please visit the National School Reform Faculty website at [www.nsrffharmony.org](http://www.nsrffharmony.org).