

## **The Power of Protocols**

One of the most important parts of research is the study of data...

A **protocol** is a set of step-by-step guidelines—usually in the form of a simple one or two-page document—that is used by educators to structure professional conversations or learning experiences to ensure that meeting, planning, or group-collaboration time is used efficiently, purposefully, and productively.

- Helps educators to remain focused.
- Builds foundational communication and facilitation skills essential to effective professional collaboration.
- Helps to nurture a culture of reflection.
- Builds trust and appreciation for mutual perspectives.
- Ensures everyone in the group has an opportunity to contribute and be heard during a discussion.
- Reduces the tendency toward subjective, digressive, or one-sided conversations.
- Promotes focused, substantive, in-depth conversations in shorter amounts of time.
- Encourages active, respectful listening among all participants.
- Keeps conversations focused on goals, solutions, and results.

***“Children are at the forefront of teacher research. The studies are usually designed to help teachers gain new ways of seeing children, develop deeper understandings of children’s feelings and growth, and become more responsive to children.”***

*~Henderson, Meier and Stremmel*

***Teacher-researchers can be characterized as those educators who attempt to better understand their practice, and its impact on children, by researching the relationship between teaching and learning.***