**Strategies for Building**

**Professional Learning Communities**

* Break teachers into professional learning communities of approximately four teachers each.
* Create a monthly book group that immerses teachers, the principal, and the assistant principal in the study of a book relevant to the Common Instructional Framework, such as *Rigor is NOT a Four Letter Word* by Barbara R. Blackburn.
* Holding a mini-professional development activity as a whole staff every three weeks. At these sessions, staff address topics chosen by the principal based on school-wide data generated by the implementation of the CIF instructional strategies. During the two weeks that follow the activity, school leaders gather data based on the topic that was addressed in the mini-professional development activity. If there is no change in instruction by the teachers, the school revisits the topic.
  + For example, after a session on Questioning, the principal visited classrooms and recorded the questions that teachers and students were asking. In the following workshop, she shared the questions with the teachers, who organized them according to Bloom’s Taxonomy. The teachers observed for themselves that their questions were not as high level as they had thought them to be.