

# School Walk Protocol

Developed by Edorah Frazer and adapted from the Collaborative Assessment Conference developed by Steve Seidel

This protocol provides a means for visitors to a school to have a meaningful interchange with hosting educators about their observations of the school. It is based on the Collaborative Assessment Conference, a protocol for looking at student work that helps people observe carefully in a non-evaluative way. This protocol can help hosting educators harvest learning from their visitors and deepen the learning of the visitors themselves. The protocol can be used while school is in session or after school hours.

#### **Time**

About one hour

### **School Walk**

Pair up in cross-school pairs and walk through the host school for 20-30 minutes. Make non-evaluative observations, avoiding qualitative judgments about what you see. As you walk, discuss the following questions:

- What do you see? What don't you see?
- What do you wonder about?
- What do you think this school is working on?

If you are a member of the school's faculty, don't give a tour, explain, apologize or show off. Look at your school and participate in the protocol with a beginner's mind.

### **Sharing Observations**

Return to the large group and share your findings on the questions in sequence.

## **Host Reflections**

People in the group who work in the school reflect aloud on what they heard that surprised and interested them and what they saw during their walk that was new.

### **Implications for Education**

Discuss the implications of the observations for education.

### **Debriefing the Protocol**

Debrief the protocol. Was it valuable? How could it have been better? How might this protocol be put to use in the future?

This protocol was originally written in the 1990s/2000s. We encourage you to purchase an NSRF membership to access newer materials and to enroll in CFG Coaches' Training to access all of the updated materials and to develop a more thorough, experiential understanding. 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.nsrfharmony.org.