CSIP analysis: NCHS vs. LCHS

Why did NCHS visit LCHS? I chose to visit LCHS because the school is a distinguished school in close proximity to NCHS. They are similar to NCHS in size and demographics, and more importantly, they have been successful in meeting the needs of their special needs students as their data supports that. This was the primary reason I wanted my team to see LCHS in practice.

What do the CSIPs of NCHS and LCHS have in common? There are several aspects of our improvement plans that are quite similar. Here are the primary activities:

1. Both plans indicate that the schools have a data informed system. Both schools have a data room using EPAS data.
2. Both plans show that the schools are analyzing assessment data in PLCs. This analysis is used to better meet the needs of students in the classroom.
3. Both plans state that students are scheduled purposefully into their selected career pathways.
4. Both plans have activities to support the development and implementation of common assessments in PLCs.

What activities in the NCJHS CSIP go above and beyond the work indicated in the LCHS plan?

1. NCHS provides common planning for teachers through the creation of the master schedule. LCHS does not; therefore, teachers at LaRue County must use early release time on Fridays to meet and discuss needs and lesson planning.
2. NCHS has GAP meetings once a week to discuss SPED needs. At LCHS, teachers only meet twice a month.
3. At NCHS, we utilize APEX for a variety of reasons, especially for credit recovery during the school day. At LCHS, credit recovery is provided after school
4. At NCHS, we post student work for celebratory purposes as well as for learning purposes. This activity is absent in the LCHS plan.
5. The NCHS plan addresses activities to address culture. The LCHS plan has none.

What did I find interesting in the LaRue County High School CSIP? There were two activities that I found useful that are not included in the NCHS plan. One of these activities I had planned to incorporate next year once I felt the faculty was ready.

1. LCHS uses a complex system for RTI called Academic Time. It requires a great deal of planning, but it is designed to meet the needs of students as it is based on EPAS data. This structure allows for students to meet twice a week in these settings to increase student achievement.
2. LCHS requires teachers to complete peer observations for professional learning. Again, I would like to do this next school year.