



# Friday Focus

## Greenup County Schools

### Do You Have the Keys for Success?

Cooperative learning is more than “group work.” It is more than traditional classroom instruction. Cooperative Learning is different!

Cooperative Learning is a way to engage all students, increase student success, hold students accountable, and teach social skills. The seven key concepts make cooperative learning successful for students and teachers.



**Key 1. Structures** A structure is the way that a teacher organizes the classroom. It is how the content is taught. A structure is content-free and repeatable. Page 6.24 in the CL text lists several structures for the classroom.

**Key 2 Teams** Cooperative Learning teams are crucial to building strong, positive groups within the classroom. Ideally the teams are made of 4 members grouped heterogeneously, homogeneously, randomly or student selected. See Chapter 7 for more information.

**Key 3 Management** Teachers have to manage classroom noise, room arrangements, seating, materials, and directions to effectively deliver instruction. For more details see Chapter 8.

**Key 4 Classbuilding** Classbuilding is the process in which the teacher facilitates a room full of students in becoming a community of active learners. Chapter 9 explores Classbuilding methods.

**Key 5 Teambuilding** Teaching teammates to work together, support each other, and develop synergistic relationships is part of Teambuilding. There are more teambuilding ideas in Chapter 10.

**Key 6 Social Skills** Students require a variety of social skills to be successful in cooperative learning and in



life. These are the same skills that students practice every day in a cooperative classroom.

*Social skill development is addressed in Chapter 11.*

**Key 7 Basic Principles (PIES)** The seven basic principles are the essence of cooperative learning. The PIES principles are:

**P**= Positive Interdependence

**I** = Individual Accountability

**E**= Equal Participation

**S** = Simultaneous Interaction

*See the 8/19 Friday Focus for a more detailed explanation of PIES.*

Mastering these crucial Keys to Success leads to a powerful way of teaching that engages all students in the learning process, boosts achievement, reduces discipline problems, and delivers a rich curriculum.

Kagan, S., & Kagan, M. (2009). *Kagan Cooperative Learning*. San Clemente, CA: Kagan Publishing.



**November 11, 2016**  
**Volume 3, Issue 7**

**Upcoming Academy Dates:**

11/15—Making Math Magic

3rd–8 am

2nd–12pm

11/17—Making Math Magic

High School

**Extended Thought**

**Acclaim for Kagan**

**Game Changer for Special Education**

**Kagan Structures Elevate High School Achievement**



### SHOUT OUTS!

The district’s goal in providing multiple professional learning opportunities for staff centered around Kagan cooperative learning strategies was to increase student engagement in learning. When students are highly engaged in learning, rigor in instruction increases, as well as student motivation and mastery and retention of knowledge. It is truly exciting to see how open our staff has been to participating in training and implementing Kagan strategies. Kudos to Team Greenup for their willingness to continue to grow as professionals in serving our students! **Thank you to all the teachers and administrators who attended Kagan training on Monday Nov. 7.**



**32 GC teachers** have completed all 5 days of Kagan cooperative learning training



**6 GC principals** have completed all 5 days of Kagan training



**142 GC teachers** have completed 2 days of Kagan training

**GC Educators Rock!**