

DEFINITION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DEFINITION: The term 'professional development' includes activities that—

- improve and increase teachers' knowledge of the academic subjects the teachers teach, and enable teachers to become highly qualified;
- are an integral part of broad schoolwide and educational improvement plans;
- give teachers and administrators the knowledge and skills to provide students with the opportunity to meet challenging academic content standards and student academic achievement standards;
- improve classroom management skills;
- are high quality, sustained, intensive, and classroom-focused in order to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction and the teacher's performance in the classroom and are not 1-day or short-term workshops or conferences;
- advance teacher understanding of effective instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research;
- are strategies for improving student academic achievement or substantially increasing the knowledge and teaching skills of teachers;
- are aligned with and directly related to academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and assessments, curricula, and programs tied to the standards;
- are developed with extensive participation of teachers and administrators;
- are designed to give teachers of limited English proficient children the knowledge and skills to provide instruction and appropriate language and academic support services to those children, including the appropriate use of curricula and assessments;
- provide training for teachers and principals in the use of technology so that technology and technology applications are effectively used in the classroom to improve teaching and learning in the curricula and core academic subjects in which the teachers teach;
- as a whole, are regularly evaluated for their impact on increased teacher effectiveness and improved student academic achievement, with the findings of the evaluations used to improve the quality of professional development;
- provide instruction in methods of teaching children with special needs;
- include instruction in the use of data and assessments to inform and instruct classroom practice;
- include instruction in ways that teachers and school administrators may work more effectively with parents; and,
- provide follow-up training that is designed to ensure that the knowledge and skills learned by the teachers are implemented in the classroom.