



The Importance and Impact of Ongoing Professional Learning A Position Statement

"The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its educators."
Linda Darling Hammond

In a rapidly changing world, New Jersey ASCD identifies the need for continuous/ongoing professional development that impacts student learning. Educators are an informed voice among colleagues who value learning and desire to perform at their highest levels throughout their career. Life-long learners connect mind and heart; they build human capacity, strengthen practice, and improve student outcomes. They generate a synergy that connects to moral efficacy. This intrinsic reward is both individual and collective and serves to model learning that should occur in the classroom.

Effective professional development

- Focuses on content and process;
- Develops a shared common knowledge;
- Builds relationships and supports among educators;
- Engages educators in using models that seek solutions to problems of practice;
- Advocates for and uses research-based strategies and evidence-based practices;
- Supports collaboration that uses teacher expertise in job-embedded activities focused on instructional practice;
- Is of sustained duration to provide sufficient time for application and implementation of new strategies into the instructional cycle;
- Supports teacher leaders to develop voice to advocate for the profession;
- Recognizes assets and needs of diverse learning environments;
- Advances and expands opportunities for quality learning experiences.

New Jersey ASCD supports growth and learning as essential to the purpose of schooling and believes that ongoing professional learning is the fabric that holds the most potential for high performing, quality public education in this century.