

High Quality Professional Development

All children deserve to be taught by highly qualified teachers, and all teachers deserve the opportunity to be involved in high-quality professional development.

The following criteria can be used to identify high-quality professional development. It:

- Actively engages teachers, over time
- Is directly linked to improved student learning so that all children may meet the Show-Me Standards at the proficient level
- Is directly linked to district and building school improvement plans
- Is developed with extensive participation of teachers, parents, principals, and other administrators
- Provides time and other resources for learning, practice, and follow-up
- Is supported by district and building leadership
- Provides teachers with the opportunity to give the district feedback on the effectiveness of participation in this professional development activity

Some types of activities that might be considered high-quality professional development if they meet the above requirements are:

- Study groups
- Grade-level collaboration and work
- Content-area collaboration and work
- Specialization-area collaboration and work
- Action research and sharing of findings
- Modeling
- Peer coaching
- Vertical teaming

Topics for high-quality professional development may include:

- Content knowledge related to standards and classroom instruction
- Instructional strategies related to content being taught in the classroom
- Improving classroom management skills
- A combination of content knowledge and content-specific teaching skills
- The integration of academic and vocational education
- Research-based instructional strategies
- Strategies to assist teachers in providing instruction to children with limited English proficiency to improve their language and academic skills
- Instruction in methods of teaching children with special needs
- Instruction in the use of data to inform classroom practice
- Instruction in linking secondary and post-secondary education
- Involving families and other stakeholders in improving the learning of all students
- Strategies for integrating technology into instruction
- Research and strategies for the education and care of preschool children