

Professional Development

Professional Development is the continual renewal of personal knowledge and expertise that leads to improved professional competence in support of student learning.

Statements of Beliefs

The continual renewal of knowledge and expertise, through a variety of experiences, is central to the concept of professionalism.

- Personal and professional development require a lifelong commitment
- Meaningful professional growth requires both substantial time and resources

Professional development benefits teachers and supports student learning.

- Teachers are central to student learning; all members of the school community are partners in the learning process.

Effective professional development requires a balanced approach in which choices are available and encouraged in relation to identified individual and organizational needs.

- Professional development can take many forms, all of which should strengthen teaching and learning, and be relevant to the realities of the teacher's world.
- Input into one's own professional development is crucial.

Professional development initiatives have the greatest impact when supported by strong leadership and collaboration.

- The school, as a professional learning community, plays a key role in maximizing and sustaining benefits of professional development.

Change in society and schools is inevitable and should be viewed as an opportunity for growth.

- Healthy organizations purposefully provide for self-renewal.