



Nevada's Standards for Professional Development

What is professional development? The Every Student Succeeds Act defines professional development as an integral part of school and local educational agency strategies for providing educators including teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, and, as applicable, early childhood educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to enable students to succeed in a well-rounded education and to meet the challenging State academic standards; and are sustained, intensive, collaborative, job-embedded, data-driven, and classroom-focused.

Research consistently shows that when ongoing effective professional development aimed at increasing teacher quality and capacity building is implemented, student achievement increases.

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is committed to ensuring all students have access to highly effective educators and school leaders. The Department recognizes that improving the effectiveness of Nevada's educators through high-quality professional development and evidenced-based decisions is key to meeting our goal of becoming the Fastest Growing State in the Nation.

In accordance with Section 31.7 of AB77 (2017), on September 27, 2018, the Nevada State Board of Education approved provisions governing statewide professional development standards in Nevada. At their foundation, Nevada's Standards for Professional Development are Learning Forward's Standards for Professional Learning, with two additional standards; equity and cultural competency.

Nevada's nine Standards for Professional Development are to be incorporated in the development, implementation, and evaluation of professional development trainings for educators employed by a school district or charter school. They should drive discussions and improvements focused on increasing educator effectiveness. The standards can be applied to site-based professional development delivered by individual teachers and administrators, as well as District level trainings.

Helpful Links

- [Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning](#)
- [20 US Code 7801 Professional Development Definition](#)
- [NRS 391A.370 Professional Development Standards](#)
- [NRS 391A.205 Professional Development Report](#)
- [AB77 \(2017\)](#)
- [LCB File No R093 18AP](#)
- [SB 474 \(2017\)](#)

The Standards

Learning Communities: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students occurs within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment.

Leadership: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students requires skillful leaders who develop capacity, advocate, and create support systems for professional learning.

Resources: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students requires prioritizing, monitoring, and coordinating resources for educator learning.

Data: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students uses a variety of sources and types of student, educator, and system data to plan, assess, and evaluate professional learning.

Learning Designs: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students integrates theories, research, and models of human learning to achieve its intended outcomes.

Implementation: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students applies research on change and sustains support for implementation of professional learning for long-term change.

Outcomes: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students aligns its outcomes with educator performance and student curriculum standards.

Equity: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students focuses on equitable access, opportunities and outcomes with an emphasis on achievement and opportunity disparities between student groups.

Cultural Competency: Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students facilitates educator's self-examination of their awareness, knowledge, skills, and actions that pertain to culture and how they can develop culturally-responsive strategies to enrich educational experiences for all students.

Every Student Succeeds – Evidence-Based Programs

1 Strong Evidence	Demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on strong evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental
2 Moderate Evidence	Demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on moderate evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study
3 Promising Evidence	Demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on promising evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection
4 Promising Theory	Demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention