

# Professional Development

## What Is Professional Development?

Professional development is the method with which districts seek to provide educators with the tools to continuously improve. In education, professional development refers to a wide variety of specialized training, formal education or advanced professional learning that assist teachers, administrators and other educators in furthering their professional knowledge, competence, skill and effectiveness.

## The Path Forward

The work being done to develop the district's Strategic Plan will serve as a roadmap to help inform future professional development initiatives and goals aimed at providing the best possible classroom instruction and student learning opportunities. Data derived from the surveys associated with the Strategic Plan will provide feedback as to the effectiveness of our approach to professional development and allow us an opportunity to continuously improve our practice.



## Sound Judgment Is Imperative

Our teaching staff members have the contractual right to select professional learning opportunities that meet their own needs. However, they are expected to use sound judgment in their selection and must refrain from promoting their individual personal and political views within the classroom.

## Balancing Administrator and Educator Development Goals

Given the complicated nature of teaching and learning, it is challenging for a district's leaders to orchestrate a system of workshops and courses that will be deemed valid and necessary by all of the educators within a school system. As professionals who work directly with our students, our educators must have a significant level of autonomy in choosing what learning will most be most effective. Department and building administrators may develop professional learning opportunities to support subject or building-specific initiatives. We also encourage our faculty, as skilled professionals, to have a voice in their own learning goals as well as the professional development opportunities that may be helpful in realizing their goals.