What Is High-Quality Professional Development?

According to the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education, high quality professional development:

1. has the goal to improve student learning based on data;

2. helps teachers meet the future needs of students who learn in different ways and who come from diverse backgrounds;

3. provides adequate time for inquiry, reflection, and mentoring and is an important part of the normal day of all educators;

4. is rigorous, sustained, and adequate to the long-term change of practice;

5. is directed toward teachers' intellectual development and leadership;

6. fosters a deepening of subject-matter knowledge, understanding of learning and appreciation of students' needs;

7. is designed and directed by teachers, incorporates the best principles of adult learning, and involves shared decisions;

8. balances individual priorities with school and district needs.

9. makes best use of new technologies; and

10. is site-based and supports a clear vision for students.