

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is the on-going practice of participating in training and other development opportunities. These opportunities will increase your skills and practices and add to your success in the learning environment.

The Cycle of Professional Development

The Cycle of Professional Development will help guide you through the process of continuing your journey as an educator. The process begins with observations and self-reflection to help determine areas of growth and improvement. This allows you to focus on creating professional development goals that are meaningful to you. Documenting an action plan will help you stay on track while allowing for modifications as needed. See the diagram below for more guidance on using the professional development cycle.

Things to Consider

- What process works best for me and my program when creating professional development goals?
- Do I have systems and procedures in place to self-reflect and/or make observations?
 - How is my action plan with goals documented?
 - How are the results shared and with whom?
- Do I have the resources and materials needed to implement my action plan?
 - Have I documented a timeframe to complete my action plan?
 - Do items need to be purchased?
 - Are trainings needed?
- How do I transfer knowledge gained in professional development opportunities to my learning environment and peers?

Best Practice Summary

- Professional development goals should be established annually and are part of an on-going improvement process.
- Goal setting should help educator's increase strategies, implement knowledge and identify resources.
- Goals should be based on an interest area or growth opportunity.
- The documented action plans and goals should be shared with relevant staff members.