Professional Learning for Teachers

New Demands Need New Approaches

Findings from the Speak Up 2017 Research Project
Prepared by Project Tomorrow for Verso

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The #1 way to improve student achievement is professional learning focused on enhancing teacher effectiveness, per district administrators

Teachers' comfort levels with new instructional practices suggest more professional learning is required

Facilitating student collaborations using digital tools

- Very comfortable: 78%
- Not very comfortable: 22%

Using student data to inform instructional practice

- Very comfortable: 70%
- Not very comfortable: 30%

Creating project based learning experiences for students

- Very comfortable: 75%
- Not very comfortable: 25%

Personalizing learning for each student

- Very comfortable: 76%
- Not very comfortable: 24%
Motivating teachers to change instructional practices (46%) and staff professional development (43%) are the top two challenges administrators face in implementing innovative tools in the classroom.

How do administrators evaluate the success of new teaching and learning innovations?

77% Level of student engagement
69% Classroom observations
62% Student feedback
54% Teacher buy-in for the new innovation
53% Teacher feedback
To more effectively implement new teaching and learning innovations in the classroom, teachers want...

- **65%** Collaborative planning time with peers
- **53%** Traditional PD training
- **39%** In-school coaching
- **32%** Info on classroom management strategies
- **19%** Virtual coaching

- **61%** of district leaders say training teachers on how to use student data is imperative - even though only **25%** of teachers have that same priority.

Teachers' PD Wish List Includes...

- **47%** Using technology to differentiate instruction
- **29%** Using technology tools for formative assessment
- **28%** Implementing blended learning in my classroom

Districts Face Challenges to Implementing Professional Development

- **66%** Providing personalized professional development
- **58%** Finding time for teacher professional development
- **54%** Empowering teachers to be self-initiated learners
- **27%** Assessing teacher skills and needs
- **26%** Evaluating ways to recognize teacher proficiency
Empowered to drive their own professional learning

Teachers are increasingly self-directing their own professional learning using digital tools

![Bar chart showing activities in 2010 and 2017](chart.png)

Online Professional Development for Teachers is Widespread but Better Outcomes Are Needed

64% of districts offer online PD for teachers

Only 39% of districts report positive results from their current online PD offerings

Verso Learning

Empowering teachers to deliver excellence in the classroom with evidence-based, embedded and personalized professional learning that engages every student.

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SOURCE: Speak Up Research Project for Digital Learning, 2017 Findings - listening to the authentic, unfiltered views of 406,779 K-12 students, parents, and educators from around the world, including 33,156 teachers. Data was collected from October 2017 through January 2018.

Speak Up is an annual research initiative of Project Tomorrow, a global nonprofit organization. Learn more about Speak Up and other research findings from Project Tomorrow at tomorrow.org.