

State Scan of Professional Learning Activities

As states review, refine, and implement new academic standards, professional learning activities, also known as professional development (PD), should be scheduled in order to support educators. At the request of a state education agency (SEA), CSAI conducted a scan of six states' PD opportunities that related to standards implementation practices, in order to examine how those states support their standards implementation processes. Included in the scan are the states of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The information gathered during the scan is presented in Table 1 on page 3.

The information was gathered by first searching each state department of education website for the page(s) dealing with PD. Then, the PD opportunities offered were scanned for options that indicated their sole purpose was to assist educators with the implementation of new and/or revised standards. These opportunities were then recorded in Table 1, along with the delivery method(s), intended participants, and frequency of the learning activities. Following Table 1, on page 6, links to additional resources are provided.

Professional Learning Activities

Each state included in this scan utilizes different approaches to the types of PD offered within it. Many of the offerings are content-specific and focus on specific area(s) for which that state has implemented new or revised standards. These offerings range from a summer science symposium (Iowa) to state-sponsored English language arts (ELA) workshops (Kansas).

Flexibility and allowing schools and districts to choose which learning activities to engage in, given each school or district's unique needs, appear to be trends in standards implementation PD. Of the six states included in the scan, Colorado's approach to PD provides the greatest flexibility among school districts, with a program called PLC Bytes, which includes 7-to-10-minute presentations providing overviews of the Colorado Academic Standards in both general and content-specific terms. This on-demand PD allows for the presentations to be tailored to the needs of a

specific group of teachers and consumed within a professional learning community (PLC) or faculty meeting. Wyoming offers educators access to a statewide digital PLC. The PLC is not a formal learning activity, but educators in the state can use the digital platform to post questions, trade information and resources, and share lessons and mapping documents, to support transitioning to new or updated standards. South Dakota provides a structured training series developed to assist teachers in transitioning to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), as well as a state-sponsored menu of PD opportunities, to allow districts to choose activities that meet their specific needs.

Delivery Method(s)

Across the six states included in the scan, the methods of PD delivery vary depending on the types of professional learning that a school or district engages in. All six states provide some type of face-to-face or in-person PD opportunity; in Colorado, the option exists to turn the face-to-face experience into a virtual collaboration. Face-to-face opportunities may be presented by SEA staff or staff from local education agencies (LEAs). States also offer online modules, conferences, webinars, and other digital platforms.

Intended Participants

In all states surveyed, teachers are the intended participants for one or more PD opportunities. This is in line with the fact that teachers will need to be doing the actual implementation of standards at the student and classroom levels. States that provide content-specific PD target those learning activities at teachers in those content areas. In addition to the PD directed toward teachers, each state also provides PD opportunities for additional school- and district-level staff, including administrators, curriculum directors/leaders, test coordinators, coaches, and facilitators.

Frequency

The frequency with which PD is delivered is dependent upon the type of learning activity. Institutes and conferences are one-time events (Iowa, North Dakota), while workshops may be delivered a number of times across the state (Kansas, Wyoming). Online modules (Colorado, North Dakota, Wyoming) and prerecorded webinars (Iowa) can be delivered on demand. Statewide PLCs (Wyoming) and a sample curriculum project (Colorado) are ongoing and may be delivered at multiple points along the implementation continuum, to support educators as their learning progresses.

Table 1: Scan of Content Standards Implementation–Related Professional Learning Activities

STATE	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY	DELIVERY METHOD(S)	INTENDED PARTICIPANTS	FREQUENCY
Colorado	PLC Bytes: PLC Bytes are 7-to-10-minute presentations designed to be used in professional learning communities (PLCs) or faculty meetings. They provide brief overviews of both general and content-specific components of the Colorado Academic Standards.	Online modules within group settings (PLCs and/or faculty meetings)	Teachers	As needed, on demand
	District Sample Curriculum Project: Beginning in 2012, the Standards and Instructional support team has been working with educators across the state of Colorado to build curriculum support resources for the successful implementation of the Colorado Academic Standards.	Face-to-face and/or virtual collaborative setting	Teachers	Phasing in over multiple years
	Found on the Colorado Department of Education Standards Implementation Support web page, the Colorado Standards Transition Action Plan Guide provides districts with a template to review questions, identify possible resources and examples, and then outline action steps that relate specifically to PD.	Face-to-face and/or virtual collaborative setting	District-level staff	Once, with potential revision based on feedback and needs assessment

STATE	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY	DELIVERY METHOD(S)	INTENDED PARTICIPANTS	FREQUENCY
Iowa	PD providing an overview of the new Iowa Science Standards	In person, through LEAs, as well as some online/virtual options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual teachers Teacher teams administrators and curriculum directors 	One- or two-day workshops
	Prerecorded NSTA website video webinars based on individual professional learning needs	Online	Teachers	On-demand as needed
	Summer Science Symposium	In-person conference (Teachers who attend the symposium may then be tapped to share model lessons, resources, etc., at their home sites)	District-identified cadres of teacher leaders across grade levels	Three-day conference
	Website containing planning, professional learning, and teacher tools—including sample units, scope and sequence documents, and additional guidance—to support the implementation of the Iowa Core	Online learning opportunities	Teachers	On-demand as needed
Kansas	State-sponsored ELA Standards Workshops (\$20 registration fee)	In person	ELA teachers	One four-hour workshop, held at seven different locations, on seven different days, across the state
	2017 Mathematics Standards Training , during which the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) will share the newly adopted 2017 Mathematics Standards, highlighting changes within the document. Participants will receive links to the standards document as well as other related resources.	In-person workshops if over 4 hours, delivered by a KSDE-trained trainer, and online if under 4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers Administrators Curriculum leaders Test coordinators 	One workshop, completed during a two-hour session or up to a half-day session

STATE	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY	DELIVERY METHOD(S)	INTENDED PARTICIPANTS	FREQUENCY
North Dakota	The North Dakota Curriculum Initiative (NDCI), now ended, provided PD around rollout and support of new standards, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer math institute • Summer reading institute • Annual fall conference 	In person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Administrators • Curriculum coordinators 	Once per year
	<u>Cross State Collaborative Math Modules</u> , created under the oversight of the North Dakota Office of Academic Support	Online modules that can be downloaded and used locally by LEAs and/or individual teachers	Math content teachers	On demand, as needed
South Dakota	Hosted by the South Dakota Department of Education, a <u>three-year training series</u> developed to assist teachers in making transition to CCSS.	In person	Teachers	Once per year for three years
	Multiple PD opportunities, from a state-sponsored menu, to allow districts to meet their own specific needs	In person and/or online, depending on the activity chosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Administrators 	Throughout the year
Wyoming	<u>Statewide PLC</u> , on Edmodo, for asking questions, sharing information and resources, and sharing lessons and mapping documents	Annual fall conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Coaches • Facilitators 	Ongoing throughout standards implementation
	Wyoming Department of Education–sponsored <u>Science Standards Workshops: Implementing the Wyoming Science Standards</u> .	In person	Teachers	Two-day workshop held four times across the state

Additional Resources

[Council of Chief State School Officers \(CCSSO\) State and District Stories of High Standards Implementation: North Dakota](#)

[South Dakota](#)

[Implementing the CCSS: Role of the Elementary School Leader](#)

- See *Schoolwide Change #10: Professional Learning* on page 21.

[Implementing the CCSS: Role of the Secondary School Leader](#)

- See *Schoolwide Change #10: Professional Learning* on page 19.

[Iowa Science Standards Implementation Plan](#)

[Common Core Implementation Workbook](#)

[Next Generation Science Standards Implementation Workbook](#)

[North Dakota Department of Public Instruction: Professional Learning](#)

[South Dakota Standards Revision and Adoption Timeline](#)



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