

# Request #: 623 - ITLS - Dissertation

## Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Teachers' Professional Learning Networks

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### **Background**

Teachers surround themselves with learning resources in the form of people, spaces/communities, and tools that assist them in their professional learning. In the literature, this is referred to as their individual "Professional Learning Network" or, PLN. I am curious to know how teachers in Utah describe their PLN and if their PLN shifted during COVID. I also want to know how they participate in professional learning spaces (like local or online learning communities) and how they might describe an ideal learning community/space for teachers.

### **Sample**

I plan on collecting survey data first, then interview data. I hope to obtain access to email addresses for teachers in Utah (there are approx. 26,000) and send them my survey. From that, I hope to get at least 100 responses (an arbitrary number).

### **Hypothesis**

I plan on using descriptive statistics to describe my participants generally and chi-square tests of independence that will allow me to determine whether there are patterns in PLN descriptions that correlate with different participant types. For example, does the age of a teacher correlate with more or less engagement in social media spaces like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Pinterest? My hypothesis is that there are correlations.

### **Progress**

I am in process of writing my dissertation proposal, which I'll be defending in early December. I have not collected any data yet.

### **Request**

I am seeking assistance on planning my analysis of categorical data from survey responses.

### **Timeline**

I need to have my proposal finalized by Nov. 23rd.