Intro

#### 

**Connected Learners**

**Why is this an integral component of teaching and learning at all educational institutions (not just K-12)**My experience in programming has proven to be a valuable asset in keeping me up to date with the latest advancements in educational technology in the field. My education has led me to the realization that outdated knowledge and a lack of understanding of technology can hinder anyone from excelling in their career for many years to come. The world in which we live today is characterized by rapid technological advances, and students, in particular, are at the forefront of using these advances, especially those in Generation Z and in the future. As a result, teachers who do not have up-to-date knowledge of the latest technological advancements are unable to assist their students in getting updated information and preparing them for the future.  
  
**When, why and how do you think PD needs to occur?**As an educational leader, I strongly believe that it is crucial that everyone in education participates in continuous professional development in order to stay at the forefront of the latest educational trends. Professional development must be provided by both schools and organizations on a continuous basis in order to achieve success. I believe it is the responsibility of the educational system and its leaders to ensure that teachers are always prepared to deal with new generational challenges, and since these challenges are not always found in the books, we also have to ensure that we are prepared to deal with any technological advancement that may occur. If we do not encourage a culture of lifelong learning for teachers as well as support them every step of the way, we will never be able to reach this goal.  
For a professional development program to be successful, it is crucial that first, the areas that require improvement must be identified in order to be able to achieve success in the process.  
The school or organization should have asked teachers and educators, as well as students, to review their curriculum in detail. They should also have provided suggestions and feedback on what should be done going forward. Schools can provide teachers with opportunities to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge that will solve a real knowledge deficit rather than wasting money and time on a short-term solution. Schools should have both in-person and online courses that are relevant to their work and can be applied immediately. It is equally a necessity to foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement where growth is acknowledged and encouraged. Effective professional development should be practical and focus on addressing specific learning challenges.  
  
  
ISTE Standard 3.5, Connected Learner, highlights the importance of education leaders modelling and promoting ongoing professional development for themselves and others. To meet this standard, I have set goals for myself to stay up to date with emerging technologies. I have participated in online professional learning networks, engaged in reflective practices using technology, and developed the skills needed to promote a mindset of continuous improvement.  
Overall, as an educational leader, I recognize that it is my responsibility to prioritize ongoing professional development for myself and my colleagues. By doing so, I can model and promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement, ultimately leading to enhanced educational experiences for our learners.  
  
  
**Reference**

Mizell, H. (2010). Why Professional Development Matters. Learning Forward.

#### 

### Standard 4. A

### Standard 4. B

### Standard 4. C

### Standard 4. D

### 

### 