



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
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Acting Commissioner

March 17, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
School Principals
County Professional Development Committee Chair
Local Professional Development Committee Chair
School Professional Development Committee Chairs

FROM: Cathy Pine, Ph.D., Director
Office of Professional Standards, Licensing and Higher Education Collaboration

SUBJECT: Assessing Impact: Evaluating the Professional Development Plan (Professional Development for Teachers Webinars 1 and 2)

In September 2009, schools and districts began the development of new professional development plans that encourage and support the deep learning of adults based on the instructional needs of their students. The first year of planning was focused on developing new structures and processes for collaborative learning within and across the schools. This year the Department of Education (the department) has asked the planning teams at the school and district level to consider the impact of their professional development on student learning. In order to support the district and school teams, the Office of Professional Standards is hosting two webinars on creating and using a focused evaluation plan to ensure that the professional development plan is making connections to student achievement.

The webinars: *Assessing Impact, Part I* and *Assessing Impact, Part II* will be led by Joellen Killion, Deputy Director of Learning Forward (formerly National Staff Development Council). Dr. Killion is a noted expert in assisting schools and districts to understand how a staff development program's theory of change can influence its success and the impact on student learning. During the two webinars participants will learn how to construct an evaluation framework for their program and be provided with a number of useful tools and resources to enhance the plan's current evaluation framework. The webinars may be experienced either "live" by all schools and districts or as a downloaded recording after the live presentation.

Webinar Schedule

Webinar 1: *Assessing Impact: Part I- March 21, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

Topics: Connecting the professional development planning requirements to a workable evaluation process; supporting the district and school in clarifying their theory of change related to professional learning; and using a logic model to construct a thoughtful plan for program evaluation over time.

Webinar 2: *Assessing Impact: Part II- March 23, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.*

Topics: Creating evaluation questions and identifying data sources to evaluate the plan; collecting feedback on learning experiences; and understanding the levels of evaluation and strategies to move from data on participants' reaction to impact on student and adult learning.

Participating in a Live Webinar

You can participate in a live webinar by logging on to the guest link in the attached webinar directions. The participant must have a headset (earphones and microphone), and the computer used to access the webinar must have the appropriate Java software, which can be downloaded for free.

Viewing a Webinar Download

The recorded webinars, including participants' questions and answers, will be available to download shortly after the live presentations. They may be accessed from the department's web site at www.nj.gov/education/profdev/pd/teacher/.

Other Suggestions for Viewing a Webinar

To get the maximum benefit from each webinar, you are encouraged to view it in teams. For example, you may convene local or school professional development committees or school teams to view the webinar together. Collective viewing of the webinars can be an excellent vehicle for stimulating discussion and collaboration around teaching and learning goals. Because only one computer can access the webinar, if arranging for a team viewing, you may want to project the image and audio to the audience. This can be done when viewing the live or downloaded version. Another suggestion for using the webinar is to design a presentation for local or school-level professional development committees or other teams of educators by customizing the Powerpoint slides available on the web site.

If you have any questions related to the professional development initiative, please email Teachpd@doe.state.nj.us or contact a teacher quality coordinator by calling Victoria Duff at 609-292-0189.

CP/EAS/VBD/L:\Duff\Documents For Sending\Memo To Csas Re Webinars.Doc

Attachment

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