



Professional Development

Latitude Learning: A Solution for Teacher Professional Development

*Working with Latitude, some schools are beginning to build processes around the scheduling, planning and management capabilities of a comprehensive and learning management system. This enables the institutions to optimize the professional development process, targeting both the needs of the schools and the interests of the teachers throughout the year. Try this online solution **FREE** right now at <http://www.latitudelearning.com>*



Professional development of teachers and instructors is an important aspect of career advancement, professional growth and institutional achievement. However, since educational institutions often manage this process either casually or manually, the process often languishes and both teachers and schools miss opportunities for advancement.

Business Need

School administrators want teachers and other instructional professionals working in the schools to meet annual professional development (PD) goals. Often defined in contracts or mandated by the state, administrators must accommodate these defined targets as well as accommodate the interests of the teachers. In many cases, schools rely on teachers to track their own PD information and provide a report on progress at the end of the year. Providing in-service days help facilitate some of that training, but these can only accommodate a few instructor-led

classes during the year. As a result, in-service training cannot accommodate wide-ranging course interests due to the amount of coordination, cost and scheduling involved.

Instead, administrators needed a system to help them proactively manage certain PD objectives but also provide teachers and other personnel the capability to manage their own annual PD objectives and report progress without a great deal of effort.

Solution

Using the Latitude Learning online portal, local school systems have started to use this on-demand LMS (Learning Management System) to actively manage teacher professional development. Latitude Learning provides tools for course management, curriculum definition, completion history, certification and interest lists. Administrators utilize these capabilities to construct a live and constantly updated picture of the courses their staff is interested in, currently engaged

in or have completed at any given time.

During the summer administrators work closely with teachers to determine which events – local, regional and national – will be included in the professional development curriculum. This effort produces the annual professional development catalog of offerings, which can be defined in the LatitudeLearning portal. Once the catalog is released, teachers in the school district can utilize LatitudeLearning to register for the courses they want to complete as part of their annual PD goals.

Administrators can also leverage LatitudeLearning's "interest lists" to determine which topics might work best for in-service training. Instead of scheduling a generic topic, training coordinators can review the interest lists in LatitudeLearning to offer a targeted array of offerings and based specifically on the areas of interest already indicated by the staff.

The system also provides teachers and administrators support for ad-hoc processes. As the school year progresses and other courses/conferences arise, the PD catalog can be updated as desired, or credit can be given for other curriculums. Consider the situation where a math teacher might want to participate in a symposium offered at a local university. If the administration and teacher agree that it can count towards PD credit, the administrator can give the teacher appropriate credit in the system.

Lastly, using the curriculum management capabilities of LatitudeLearning, administrators and teachers are only a click-or-two away from seeing how they are doing against the annual PD goals. This active

management and review of PD is now becoming part of the weekly and monthly discussions for local school administrations.

Results

In local applications, the transition to a managed PD model is just now completing its first year. Feedback has been very positive; the solution is providing control where it was absent before and PD management is now an active on-going discussion as opposed to a year-end scramble.

Summary

Latitude, in cooperation with local school districts, has provided a framework for schools to manage the professional development of all employees, both faculty and staff. This approach relieves the burden on administrators and teaching professionals by actively managing the professional development offerings, tracking progress and completions and providing reports against that progress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact Latitude Business Development at (888) 577-2797 ext. 602, via email at info@latitudelearning.com or by visiting us at <http://www.latitudelearning.com>