

## **E-X-P-A-N-D-I-N-G Your Vision of Professional Development**

If the CISVA Superintendents' Office suddenly announced that we would no longer provide half-day inservices in which teachers are asked to sit passively and listen while experts train them in new practices what would you do? Leaping for joy might be one response...suddenly you could turn your back on professional development that has little impact on the teaching and learning that takes place in your school and focus on strategies that would benefit teachers and students alike.

As you move out of this inservice rut, consider what we know about effective professional development, that it is results-driven, standards-based, and focused on the learning needs of our students. Professional Development functions best when it is school-based, embedded into a school growth plan and is seen as the primary strategy for achieving school goals within the context of a Professional Learning Community. Here are some ideas to consider as your school looks for more effective ways to involve teachers in their own learning:

### **If Not a Workshop, Then What?**

1. Conducting action research projects
2. Analyzing teaching cases
3. Joining a cadre of in-house trainers
4. Planning lessons with a teaching colleague
5. Consulting an expert
6. Examining student data
7. Being coached by a peer or an expert
8. Leading a book study
9. Making a field trip to another school
10. Writing assessments with a colleague
11. Participating in a study group or support group
12. Doing a classroom walk-through
13. Giving presentations at conferences
14. Researching on the internet
15. Engaging in lesson study
16. Working on a strategic planning team
17. Taking a webcast seminar on-line
18. Leading a schoolwide committee or project
19. Developing displays, bulletin boards
20. Shadowing students
21. Coaching a colleague
22. Being a mentor – being mentored
23. Joining a professional network
24. Using a tuning protocol to examine student work
25. Attending an in-depth institute in a content area
26. Writing an article about your work
27. Reading journals, educational magazines, books
28. Participating in a critical friends group
29. Doing a self-assessment
30. Shadowing another teacher or professional in the field
31. Being observed and receiving feedback from another teacher or principal
32. Leading a spiritual retreat
33. Keeping a reflective log or journal
34. Analyzing the expectations of our provincial assessments
35. Enrolling in a university/college course
36. Viewing educational videos
37. Maintaining a professional portfolio
38. Studying content standards for our province
39. Observing other teachers teach
40. Listening to audio/video recordings
41. Participating in a videoconference or conference calls with experts
42. Visiting model schools/programs
43. Developing curriculum
44. Examining new technological resources to supplement lessons
45. Doing school improvement planning

*Adapted from the NSDC "The Learning Principal", Vol.1, No.1, Sept. 2005.*

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