



Professional Learning Plan for Active Classroom

We are committed to providing teachers with professional learning that promotes understanding and implementation of Active Classroom. Research states that professional learning is essential to effective classroom implementation, and that for innovative programs, training over an extended period of time can contribute significantly to success.

We offer a blended professional learning approach combining the best of face-to-face and online learning. Our approach offers flexibility for both the district and its teachers, allowing us to meet your professional learning needs while keeping mandatory meeting times to a minimum.

Flexible Professional Learning Options

Self-Guided Online Courses. Two self-paced online courses allow teachers to see demonstrations, practice what they have learned, and join a discussion board to reflect on their personal experiences. Each course comprises three sessions that last approximately 45 minutes. The courses:

AC 101

- **Getting Started**

This overview guides learners through the content and functionality of Active Classroom.

- **Analyzing Resources**

Select and assign resources. Promote comprehension by crafting differentiated assignments that use color-coded text-highlighting to analyze content-rich readings.

- **Student View**

Log in as a student and complete the text-analysis assignments. Then see how teachers view and grade that work.

AC 102

- **What Is Differentiation?**

Review your prior knowledge regarding differentiated instruction, then discover how Active Classroom approaches differentiation.

- **Reviewing Reading Resources**

Find out how Active Classroom helps teachers choose reading resources based on lexile level and text complexity.

- **Reviewing Multimedia Resources**

Learn how Active Classroom differentiates multimedia resources through the lenses of content and practice.

Webinars. Introducing selected Active Classroom resources and modeling best practices for using them, webinars are offered monthly and deliberately kept short, usually 30—45 minutes. Examples of previous sessions:

- **Growth Mindset**

Discover Carol Dweck’s strategies for changing a “fixed mindset” (the idea that basic human qualities like intelligence or talent are fixed traits) into a “growth mindset” (the conviction that most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work).



- **Brain-Based Learning**
Examine how neuroscientific insights into brain function point the way toward more effective classroom differentiation. Based on the teachings of David Sousa and Carol Ann Tomlinson.
- **Bias and How to Recognize It**
Assemble a collection of reliable tools and methods that students can use for discerning accurate from inaccurate information in primary source documents.

Instructor-Led Online Courses. Offered during our Summer Institute and at other times of year, online courses provide teachers with opportunities to earn Continuing Education Units or Graduate Credit.

Recent titles:

- **Teaching with Poverty in Mind**
Dr. Eric Jenson’s thought-provoking insights into how poverty affects the minds and lives of economically disadvantaged students reveal strategies to engage them and increase their academic achievement.
- **Differentiation and the Brain**
Dispelling the perception that differentiating your classroom burdens teachers with extra work, Dr. David Sousa shows how recent neuroscience research suggests strategies for teaching differently and smarter—not harder.
- **Reading Strategies for Common Core Success**
Compile and learn how to deploy inquiry-based investigative reading strategies that increase student engagement, content understanding, and overall academic achievement.

Onsite Options. Because the best training sessions are designed with specific participant outcomes in mind (Guskey, 2000), we partner with you to define your goals and customize how we can meet them.

- **Onsite Trainings**
Dynamic demonstrations and discussions guided by a Certified Facilitator acquaint participants with Active Classroom’s array of resources and lead the way to mastery of the program’s functions. One onsite training session for a maximum of 25 participants can be structured as full day (seven hours) or half day (two three-hour segments).
- **Onsite Visits**
Visits create opportunities for an array of learning options, including classroom demonstrations, individual or group coaching, short Q&As, and after-school training sessions. All visits are seven hours of custom training executed by a Certified Facilitator.
- **Onsite Meetings**
District leaders meet Certified Facilitators for seven hours to plan professional learning, correlate Active Classroom activities to district and state standards, and arrange any other support needed for implementation.

Curriculum Mapping. We provide custom correlations of our materials to your district’s goals and standards.