



Professional Learning Plan for *Exploring Where & Why*

We are committed to providing teachers with professional learning that promotes understanding and implementation of *Exploring Where & Why*. 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

Online Courses. We offer four self-guided online courses, each approximately 30–45 minutes in length. Sessions include an introduction, step-by-step instruction, and an opportunity for hands-on practice.

- **Overview**
An introduction provides the background teachers need to understand the program’s resources, the design of our Teacher’s Guide, and the structure and strategies that animate our lessons.
- **Hands-on, Minds-on Learning**
Explore how hands-on activities—for one example, marking maps or globes—engage all the learning modalities so every student finds opportunities to succeed.
- **Cross-Curricular Instruction**
Discover how real-world experiences engage students not only in social studies, but in math, science, reading, and all the other disciplines and skill sets embedded in our activities.
- **Literacy Library**
Connect the curriculum’s core concepts to students’ lives by using a library of fiction and nonfiction books correlated to both the program’s content and students’ developmental needs.

Webinars. Offered periodically and lasting no longer than 45 minutes. Sample topics:

- **Vocabulary Building**
Our focus on vocabulary-building strategies improves student retention of key terms essential for academic success. According to researchers such as Robert Marzano, approximately 55% of the vocabulary needed to be successful in school comes from social studies.
- **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.



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 *Exploring Where & Why's* array of resources and inquiry-based instructional model. One onsite training session for a maximum of 30 participants can be structured as full day (seven hours), half day (two three-hour segments), or mini (three two-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 *Exploring Where & Why* activities to district and state standards, and arrange any other support needed for implementation.

Pacing Guides. We provide custom pacing guides that correlate our materials to your curriculum frameworks to ensure complete fulfillment of district goals and standards.