

Houston County Schools Professional Development Plan 2010

Sharing the Vision, Shaping the Future

Professional development in Houston County Schools is a process that facilitates the continuing education of administrators, teachers, and other staff members who are engaged in the education of students. By engaging in professional development, staff members should become proficient in subject areas, student achievement practices, and provide quality lessons based on scientific researched strategies.

Quality professional development recognizes that teachers are central to student learning, and that all members of the school community participate in the learning process. Houston County Schools professional development reflects the current available research and best practices in teaching, while promoting continuous inquiry and improvement that is embedded in the daily operation of the schools.

The Professional Development Plan for Houston County Schools is in alignment with National Teaching Standards and Alabama Teaching Standards. We, as educators recognize that quality teachers inspire, motivate, and empower students to achieve their full potential.

Houston County Schools offers a comprehensive, effective, professional development program to staff members both in-district and out of district professional learning opportunities, workshops, college courses, and conferences. Initiatives and areas of focus for Houston County Schools are based on student needs from evidence provided by student assessment data. The data are the driving force behind the professional development plan.

Houston County Schools has included the following areas in the plan:

1. Strategic Teaching and Differentiated Instruction
Goal: To personalize the learning experience for all students by providing training on instructional techniques, collaborative learning, and data assessment
2. Curriculum design and development
Goal: Insure alignment with Alabama State Standards for all subjects
3. Technology and Curriculum Integration
Goal: Infuse technology into the classroom curriculum and use instructional technology resources to enhance instruction
4. Content Area Development
Goal: Use learning research-based instructional techniques and curriculum content to improve student achievement in various content areas
5. Leadership Support
Goal: To provide support to administrators to facilitate their role as instructional leaders
6. Classroom and school-wide positive behavior support
Goal: To understand and appreciate diversity, build a positive learning culture and climate, by providing character education, violence prevention education and substance abuse education

7. Mentoring

Goal: To provide new teachers an induction program under the guidance of a master teacher that will enhance their ability to become effective teacher

Through the review of data, these areas will be the focus of the professional development activities for this school year. These focus areas will allow faculty and staff to improve student learning by increasing effectiveness and embedding instructional practices into the daily activities of the classroom. These activities will aid our goal of sharing the vision, shaping the future.