



Center for
Online
Professional
Education

Overview of Online Professional Development (OPD)

Principals' Advanced Leadership Institute

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Plan for Today

- Explore sample online workshop
- Group Discussion
(online versus face-to-face professional development)
- Elements of OPD

Plan for Today, cont.

- Experiencing an EdTech Leaders online course (in Blackboard)
- Brainstorming possible course topics
- Generating goals for your online courses

Explore a Sample Workshop

*Finding the Best Educational Resources
on the Web*

<http://edc.blackboard.com>

Username: first initial + last name

Password: pali

Principles of Effective Professional Development

What are the characteristics of effective professional development for educators, no matter what the medium of delivery?

Different Types of Online Professional Development (OPD)

- Broadcast approaches
- Self-paced, independent study courses
- College lecture course models
- Tutorial models

- COPE's Learning Community model

Potential Advantages of the Learning Community Approach

Compatible with principles of effective professional development, offering a means to:

- actively engage participants in their own learning
- enable educators to collaborate and support each other
- connect directly to participants' work
- provide a supportive context for inquiry, reflection, and mentoring

Potential Advantages of the Learning Community Approach

- Convenience
- Ongoing connections to participants' practice
- Potential cost effectiveness
- Interactions with colleagues and mentors not available locally
- Reflective discussions
- Open social dynamic
- Engages educators in using new technologies
- Archives of activities and discussions

Integrating Online Workshops into an Overall PD Program

- Online is just one form of delivery for professional development.
 - What types of activities and skill development are better suited for the face-to-face environment?

Integrating Online Workshops into an Overall PD Program

- Many people are more comfortable communicating online with people whom they know through in-person interactions
 - How and when should you effectively incorporate face-to-face elements into an online workshop experience?

Integrating Online Workshops into an Overall PD Program

- Different individuals will have different levels of comfort in the online environment
 - How can you do your best to ensure that those in your district/school who participate in online professional development are supported in their efforts?