

ER9 Professional Development Committee

Training is...

Training is the mastery of a set of skills or competencies through instruction and practice. Training is often required before one is able to apply skills to a broader learning idea.

Example: Training is provided to teachers in order to learn how to operate the functions of a website management tool. Once these skills are mastered, teachers may apply these skills to the development of a web page that has the possibility of impacting teaching and learning.

Professional development is...

Professional development is the acquisition and integration of the concepts and skills needed to deepen and expand understanding of teaching and learning. It is on-going and builds upon prior knowledge. Strong professional development should model exemplary practices of teaching and learning. It should be collaborative, embedded in daily practice, differentiated, and tied to relevant needs of the adult learner and school and/or district.

Example: Two grade level teachers apply the skill set mastered in web site management training to their science and math curriculum and create an on-line blog for students to respond to videos posted from the day's lesson. This extension of the lesson is shared with other teachers, who expand or enrich the activity in new ways. The teacher group comes together to share and discuss the student learning results shown in their blogs and focus their discussion on the role and impact of questioning and threaded discussions on student learning.