

2.6

Professional Growth

2.6.1 Definition

Professional growth refers to the change in knowledge, skills, abilities or perspectives resulting from the continuous professional learning that teachers intentionally pursue with the goal to further understand the nature of teaching and learning, enhance professional practice or contribute to the profession.

2.6.2 Beliefs

- (1) Teachers' professional growth benefits teaching and learning and contributes to the betterment of the teaching profession as a whole.
- (2) Professional growth is an inherent part of being a teacher and is an integral part of a teacher's practice.
- (3) Teachers have the ability and responsibility to self-direct their professional growth and expect the autonomy necessary to exercise their professional judgment in related decision-making at both group and individual levels.
- (4) Continuous professional learning should include a broad range of formal, informal and experiential learning opportunities that are planned, meaningful and related to the general duties, responsibilities or aspirations of the teacher.
- (5) Consistent and meaningful access to high-quality professional learning opportunities is fundamental to teachers' continued professional growth.
- (6) The creation of opportunities for teachers' professional growth is a shared responsibility among teachers, school boards and the provincial government that depends critically upon the provision of time, resources and other necessary supports for teachers.
- (7) Therefore, teachers individually and collectively:
 - (a) Support, encourage and provide opportunities for the professional growth of teachers.
 - (b) Advocate for appropriate provision of time, resources and supports for professional growth.
 - (c) Engage in ongoing reflective practice, self-assessment and professional renewal.
 - (d) Engage in continuous professional learning and contribute, where possible and appropriate, to research into teaching and learning.
 - (e) Encourage and support each other in the pursuit of professional growth, the sharing of professional insights and in other collaborative endeavours to improve teaching and learning.
 - (f) Pursue, develop and deliver a broad range of opportunities for professional growth. In addition to one-time formal learning opportunities, teachers engage in innovative, authentic, sustained, relevant, flexible, collaborative and locally embedded professional growth.
 - (g) Support a variety of organizations, networks and services related to teachers' professional growth.

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