

TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

by:

ALFONSO R. MICLAT JR., EdD
Head Teacher III, Balsik National High School

Teaching is widely regarded as one of the most honorable professional occupations. A professional who works with pupils to assist them in acquiring knowledge, competence, and virtue is referred to as a coach or instructor. To provide young children with a conducive learning environment, primary school teachers maintain a casual atmosphere in both primary and pre-primary classes. Educators are the ones who instill in their pupils the values and discipline that are necessary for a successful life. Having a methodical approach to teaching, supported by evidence, is what is meant by the term "professional teaching." Specifically, it entails organizing and delivering teaching in a manner that is efficient for every learner. The commitment to continuing professional growth and the habit of reflecting on one's own teaching are other characteristics of professional educators. A person is considered a teaching professional if they have successfully obtained professional knowledge in education and can apply that knowledge during the teaching-learning processes. According to IGI Global (2025), the only tool that can improve the likelihood of a successful implementation of the educational system is a dedicated and experienced educator.

The growth and development of the modern educator requires participation in professional development (PD) in the 21st century. Students and educational leaders alike have access to a wide variety of perspectives, technologies, and possibilities in today's educational landscape. Going beyond maintenance and creating sustainability and professional longevity are the goals of professional development for educators. The purpose of this development is to go beyond maintenance. The lack of access to high-quality professional development reduces the influence teachers can have in their

classrooms and decreases the resources educators have to serve their communities effectively. Professional development in the 21st century can take various forms and be utilized in multiple ways. According to Washington (2025), it is essential to raise the number of educators who are both competent and practical, as well as to raise the level of understanding regarding personal teaching and leadership practices.

In the context of education, "professional development" refers to the process of continuous learning, growth, and skill enhancement intended to help instructors become more effective in their roles. For the purpose of enhancing teaching abilities and knowledge, it provides chances for training, workshops, and other learning experiences. The purpose of professional development is to help educators stay up-to-date and enhance their effectiveness in the classroom, ultimately aiming to improve the educational experience of students. According to Education Advance (2023), it is a path of self-improvement that continues throughout one's entire life and contributes to the overall quality of education. There is a dynamic journey of growth and improvement that instructors go through during their professional development. It provides educators with the information and skills they need to excel in the classroom and positively impact their students' scholastic experiences.

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