

QUICK-START GUIDE

Standards for Professional Learning

Learning Forward develops Standards for Professional Learning so that educators around the world have the latest knowledge and insights to design, implement, and sustain high-quality professional learning. Educators advance transformation in schools, systems, and organizations when they leverage standards to create environments in which educators and students alike have equitable access to learning that responds to the demands of an ever-changing world.

Standards for Professional Learning work within a framework of three categories:

- The **Rigorous Content for Each Learner** standards describe the essential content of adult learning that leads to improved student outcomes.
- The **Transformational Processes** standards describe process elements of professional learning, explaining how educators learn in ways that sustain significant changes in their knowledge, skills, practices, and mindsets.
- The **Conditions for Success** standards describe aspects of the professional learning context, structures, and cultures that undergird high-quality professional learning.

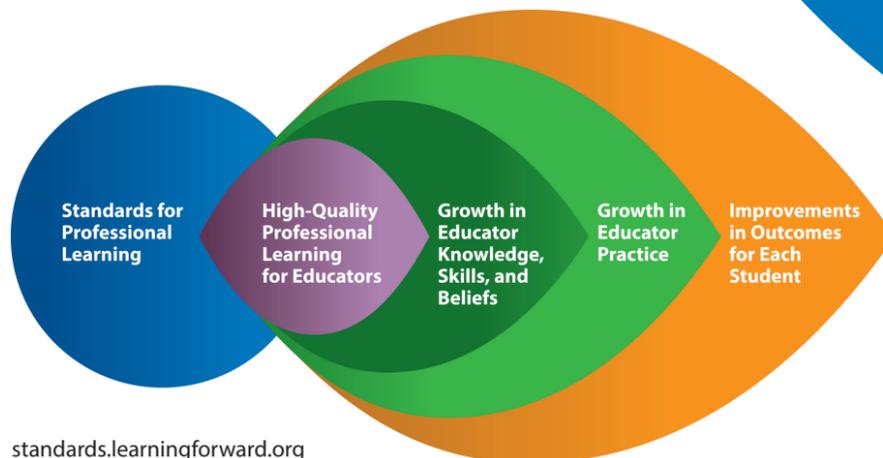
FOUNDATIONS FOR STANDARDS

Several foundations underlie Standards for Professional Learning. Understanding these foundations is critical to understanding the standards as well as the contexts and support within which they can flourish.

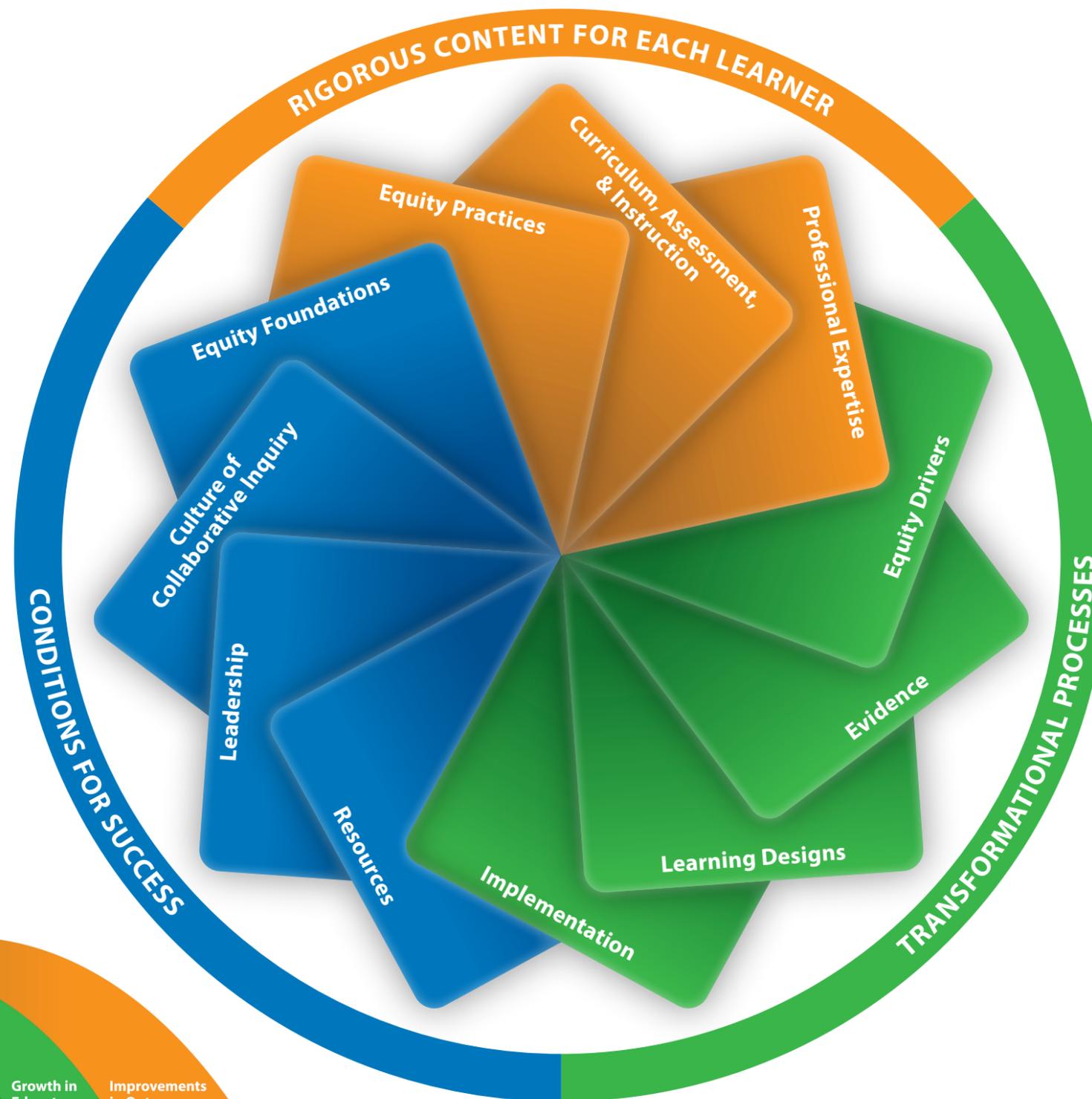
- High-quality professional learning improves educator practice and student results.
- Professional learning systems drive high-quality professional learning.
- Equity is both an outcome of and focus threaded throughout learning.
- High-quality curriculum and instructional materials are a critical priority for professional learning.
- Educators are responsible for leading learning for self and others.
- Policy guides practice.
- Research informs revised Standards for Professional Learning.

HOW STANDARDS LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT FOR ALL LEARNERS

As the graphic below illustrates, Standards for Professional Learning lead to high-quality professional learning, which leads to positive changes in educator knowledge, skills, and dispositions, which lead to improvements in educator practice, which in turn lead to accelerated student results. Monitoring progress at each step contributes to continued improvement throughout the system, with student and educator data providing evidence about how professional learning evolves to lead to excellence and equity.



STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WORK IN CONCERT WITHIN A SYSTEM FRAMEWORK



STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Professional learning results in equitable and excellent outcomes for all students when educators ...

EQUITY PRACTICES

... understand their students' historical, cultural, and societal contexts, embrace student assets through instruction, and foster relationships with students, families, and communities.

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT, AND INSTRUCTION

... prioritize high-quality curriculum and instructional materials for students, assess student learning, and understand curriculum and implement through instruction.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

... apply standards and research to their work, develop the expertise essential to their roles, and prioritize coherence and alignment in their learning.

Professional learning results in equitable and excellent outcomes for all students when educators ...

EQUITY DRIVERS

... prioritize equity in professional learning practices, identify and address their own biases and beliefs, and collaborate with diverse colleagues.

EVIDENCE

... create expectations and build capacity for use of evidence, leverage evidence, data, and research from multiple sources to plan educator learning, and measure and report the impact of professional learning.

LEARNING DESIGNS

... set relevant and contextualized learning goals, ground their work in research and theories about learning, and implement evidence-based learning designs.

IMPLEMENTATION

... understand and apply research on change management, engage in feedback processes, and implement and sustain professional learning.

Professional learning results in equitable and excellent outcomes for all students when educators ...

EQUITY FOUNDATIONS

... establish expectations for equity, create structures to ensure equitable access to learning, and sustain a culture of support for all staff.

CULTURE OF COLLABORATIVE INQUIRY

... engage in continuous improvement, build collaboration skills and capacity, and share responsibility for improving learning for all students.

LEADERSHIP

... establish a compelling and inclusive vision for professional learning, sustain coherent support to build educator capacity, and advocate for professional learning by sharing the importance and evidence of impact of professional learning.

RESOURCES

... allocate resources for professional learning, prioritize equity in their resource decisions, and monitor the use and impact of resource investments.

RIGOROUS CONTENT FOR EACH LEARNER

TRANSFORMATIONAL PROCESSES

CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

How to use

Standards for Professional Learning

How educators use standards varies based on their roles and contexts. Below are suggested starting points as educators commit to move standards into practice.

Build awareness and understanding.

- Study the standards to understand what high-quality professional learning entails.
- Use the standards collectively to establish common language and expectations about the professional learning all educators deserve to experience.
- Periodically review and discuss standards with educators in any role to support them in understanding their responsibilities related to professional learning.

Advance professional learning in practice.

- Apply the standards to plan, facilitate, and evaluate professional learning for individuals or teams at the school or system level.
- Share the standards with external assistance providers to establish expectations for any assistance they provide to school or system staff.
- Develop model professional learning plans and programs using standards to deepen educators' understanding and use of standards.

Establish policies and secure resources.

- Leverage the standards to advocate for resources or support for high-quality professional learning.
- Adopt standards to establish school, system, state, provincial, or federal policies that advance the quality of professional learning.
- Tie funding and support for professional learning to those plans and programs that align to standards.

Learn more

Visit standards.learningforward.org to find resources useful for sharing, studying, and implementing Standards for Professional Learning.

- Role-based Action Guides include Innovation Configuration maps.
- Research resources go deep on the evidence behind standards.
- Policy tools suggest steps to advance adoption and use of standards in a range of contexts.

Learning Forward is committed to building every educator's capacity to establish and sustain high-quality professional learning so that every student has access to high-quality teaching and learning.

As the only membership association solely focused on effective professional learning for K-12 educators, Learning Forward serves thousands of members and subscribers while simultaneously influencing the broader education field. Learning Forward works at all levels of the education system.

Information about standards, membership, services, or products is available from:

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