

School-based Professional Learning Days in BTPS

Why do schools close, start late, or dismiss early for professional learning?

When educators engage in professional learning at their schools with their colleagues, they can learn from each other, support one another, and hold each other accountable for applying what they learn. Learning during the school year makes it easier for educators to apply what they learn immediately within their work places so that students benefit immediately.

How does professional learning benefit my school?

All schools should be places where both adults and students learn. Teachers and administrators who routinely develop their own knowledge and skills model for students that learning is important and useful. Their ongoing learning creates a culture of learning throughout the school and supports educators' efforts to engage students in learning. A school that organizes team-based professional learning and expects all teachers and administrators to consistently participate — though for different purposes, at different times, in different ways — demonstrates that it is serious about all educators performing at higher levels. As a result, the entire school is more focused and effective.

Why should the public be concerned that teachers have professional learning?

Professional learning provides ongoing opportunities for educators to continue to improve their knowledge and skills so they can help students achieve. When educators learn, students learn more. Anyone concerned about their students' futures will want to support a cycle of continuous professional growth for educators.

How does professional learning in K–12 public education differ from professional learning in other fields?

In public schools, effective professional learning affects students. Student learning and achievement increase when educators engage in effective professional learning focused on the skills educators need in order to address students' major learning challenges.

Mizell, Hayes. (2010). *Why Professional Development Matters*. Oxford, Ohio: Learning Forward.