

Access

Ensuring the delivery of quality professional development to all of your state's adult educators can be a challenging task. Given the part-time nature of many practitioners, this task can seem overwhelming at times. Lack of time and tight travel budgets are two common responses when practitioners are asked why they do not access more professional development. So how do you ensure timely access to professional development? Using multiple delivery access options can certainly help.



States are taking advantage of technology to increase their access options. Some are replacing traditional face-to-face workshops with online courses or blended models that combine online instruction with workshops. Others are using teleconferencing and webinars to expand access. Some are developing DVD's for certain topics that lend themselves to that modality. North Carolina has developed an entire series of videos with viewing guides that practitioners can access.

Another important factor to consider in determining the most appropriate access options is the sequence and scope of the professional development content. Many states are trying to minimize the "one shot" approach – a single workshop with no follow-up or application options. By developing access options that provide theory, application, practice, and feedback/coaching through a series of related professional development activities, they are increasing the continuity, sequence and integration of new knowledge and skills.