

Professional Development Standards

Professional development standards form the second foundational component of a comprehensive professional development system by defining the characteristics of quality professional development that foster effective and reflective adult educators. In other words, if you are going to offer professional development services, how do you define quality? What are the key factors to consider?

Professional development standards help to answer these questions and serve as a measuring stick that can be used to gauge the quality, relevancy, and rigor of your professional development efforts.

The standards can be used:

- By state ABE leadership to set a vision for professional development,
- By professional developers to guide them as they design and deliver professional development activities, and
- By practitioners to help them understand the characteristics of effective professional development.

In 2006, the Association of Adult Literacy Professional Developers (AALPD) initiated the development of sample professional development standards for adult education. The AALPD standards reflect findings from two primary research studies on professional development.

- How Teachers Change: Study of Professional Development in Adult Education, conducted by the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL).
- Findings from the Evaluation of the Eisenhower Professional Development Program as cited in Garet, M. S., Porter, A. C., Desimone, L., Birman, B. F., & Yoon, K. S. (2001). What makes professional development effective? Results from a national sample of teachers. *American Educational Research Journal*, 38, 915-945. What makes PD Effective: Results from a National Sample of Teachers

The AALPD standards are broad guidelines for providing quality professional development experiences. Therefore, the committee has also developed a set of indicators for each standard to operationalize the standards in adult education. If you would like to view the AALPD professional development standards, [click here](#).