

Inservice Days Help Maximize Student Learning

We expect more from our students today than ever before, and as the standards for students increase so do the standards for teachers. That's why the "inservice" or "staff development" days you notice in the school calendar are so critical to this process. This year we have 9 half-days and 4 full-days set aside for staff development in our district. These inservice days do not compromise the number of learning days our children receive. With the addition of new technology, yearly revisions to our curriculum, and new policies and procedures, these training sessions are critical to the success of our children.

Today's schools have the most diverse group of students we have ever had, with a greater range of abilities, disabilities and cultures. Preparing our teachers to serve this diverse population takes more time and more preparation than was needed in the past.

Continuing education has always been an important part of every educator's career. Teachers spend a great deal of their own time earning advanced degrees, and they are required to return to the classroom periodically to retain their certification. Competency in their fields is the key to being able to impart information to students. We know that knowledge is doubling every five years and our teachers need help to increase their competency in many professional areas in their subject matter, teaching techniques, motivation, discipline, classroom management, grading, testing, communication, technology and much more.

Staff development is not limited to the teaching staff or administration; staff development includes everyone. Clerical

staff must know what policy changes have been made that affect their work, as well as what software changes they need to master. Custodial personnel continually receive training on the management and use of chemicals and equipment involved in maintaining school facilities. Even volunteers are trained on school policies and procedures in addition to their specific duties.

Teachers and staff all need sessions in which they can feel comfortable

asking questions and discussing any problems they may have experienced in the process of assimilating new

information, methods, or technologies.

Inservice days provide teachers and staff with resources on specialized topics unique to individual schools or districts.

Parental and community support of these inservice days helps assure that we have vibrant and successful schools.

Continuous learning for everyone engaged in the education of young people is vital to giving students the best possible education. The more we know as education professionals, the better we are able to help all children reach their potential. Educators are committed to the learning process, and that process must begin with us if the children in our care are to be successful.

Inservice days provide training in many areas.

"Education, in the deepest sense, is continuous and lifelong and in essence unfinishable."

~James Hilton