The NSTA Learning Center: Research-Based e-Professional Development
National Science Teachers Association
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e-PD Resources:
A variety of online resources (over 6,300) developed to address learners’ preferences:
• Science Objects
• SciPacks
• SciGuides
• Journal Articles
• e-Book Chapters
• e-Books
• Web Seminars (live)
• Web Seminar Archives
• Podcasts

Tools:
A set of tools helps teachers plan, track, and assess their professional learning growth:
• My Library
• My PD Indexer
• My PD Plan & Portfolio
• My PD Record & Certificates
• My Notepad
• My Calendar

Peer to Peer Learning:
• Teachers participate in asynchronous discussion online and have access to live online advisors and e-mail content mentors.
• Educators talk privately via e-mail.

2010 National Education Technology Plan:
Through online learning systems, teachers may enhance their learning through blending the best of onsite PD with online PD that provides immediacy, convenience, self-direction, and collaboration with other colleagues and experts via professional learning communities.

Building a Robust Community:
• Strategy: (A) Compelling content, (B) psycho-emotional opportunities, and (C) social engagement.
• Teachers’ activities are incentivized/recognized via points, badges, and leader boards.

State and District Deployments:
Over 200 cohorts across the country including:
• HI Dept. of Ed
• WV Dept. of Ed
• Chicago Public Schools
• Atlanta Public Schools
• Houston ISD
• Fairfax County Public Schools

Current Research Implications:
• Administrator acknowledgement of teachers matter.
• Supports Anderson’s 2003 Equivalency of Interaction Theorem.
• Incentives and milestones for progress are important for self-directed teacher online professional development.
• Teacher opt-in toward self-motivation of learning growth matters.

Learning Center Visibility:
• Platform for Chicago Public Schools Science Teachers Academy (1,000 teachers).
• NASA Competes Grant Award (14 district pilots deploying NLC pilots).