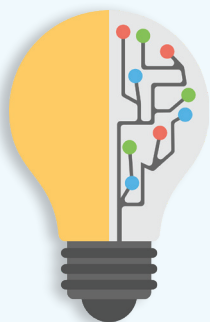


AT A GLANCE

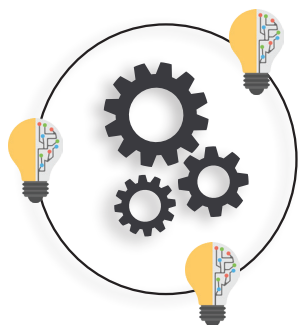
Workshops CAN be high-quality professional learning. Here's how.

High-quality professional learning is sustained, intensive, and job-embedded. But workshops, released days, and other short-term learning activities have a valuable role to play as long as they don't stand alone. When they are part of a comprehensive plan, they can be meaningful, efficient, engaging, and — most important — impactful for students.



Workshops are useful to:

- Introduce new strategies and provide just-in-time learning.
- Advance teachers to a new phase of learning or practice.
- Help teachers learn from each other and build on each other's successes.
- Build collaboration among teachers from different grades or buildings to make systemwide improvements.



How to integrate workshops into a larger learning strategy:

- Ground the workshop in the school improvement or professional learning plan.
- Develop a learning trajectory for the desired skills and show where the workshop fits in.
- Align workshop design and content with Standards for Professional Learning.
- After the workshop, follow up with coaching, professional learning communities, and other long-term supports.



How to make the most of workshop time:

- Start with goals and student needs and explain what you want teachers to know and be able to do.
- Focus on the big takeaways and reinforce them throughout the workshop.
- Design the learning to build over time, starting with participants' existing knowledge, and include practice opportunities.
- Plan follow-up, including the commitments you expect participants to make and the ongoing support you will provide.



Scan for more information on how to use workshop time effectively.

To learn more about our consultants or consulting services, visit services.learningforward.org or contact Sharron Helmke, senior vice president, professional services, at sharron.helmke@learningforward.org.

