



The **#teachPHL Professional Learning Community** is a judgment-free learning space tailored to the needs of new, novice, and developing teachers in the School District of Philadelphia.

Join us for **Professional Development Sessions** with an emphasis on collaboration and planning, held on Zoom from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Topics, dates and session descriptions listed below.

Visit the [#teachPHL Resource Center](#) for curated resources, just-in-time information, and materials from past sessions.



2024 - 2025

We welcome participants in all roles that support our students. Payment at the contractual rate and ACT 48 credit is awarded *solely for employees categorized as PreK-12 teachers*. Allow six to ten weeks for payment processing.

FAQs [<<here>>](#)

Register on Powerschool:

- [Registration Stepper](#)
- [PowerSchool Help Page](#)

Contact us at

professionaldevelopment@philasd.org

Professional Development Sessions: Topics and Dates

Day	Month	Date	Topic	Day	Month	Date	Topic
Wed.	Sept.	11	Creating Your Classroom Environment	Wed.	Jan.	15	Planning Effective Instruction
Wed.	Sept.	25	Positive Narration & Building Relationships	Wed.	Jan.	22	Checking for Understanding
Wed.	Oct.	9	Preparing for Formal Observations	Wed.	Feb.	12	Fostering Independent Learners
Wed.	Oct.	23	Reducing and Responding to Unproductive Behaviors	Wed.	Feb.	26	Make Your Classroom HOT! Higher-Order Thinking in Everyday Lessons
Wed.	Nov.	6	Building a Culture of Family Engagement OR IEP Writing Workshop	Wed.	March	12	Site Selection / Certification / Career Pathways
Wed.	Nov.	20	De-escalation Strategies	Wed.	March	26	Touchpoints for Student Engagement
Wed.	Dec.	4	Strategies for Active Engagement	Wed.	April	9	Welcoming Classroom Spaces
Wed.	Dec.	18	Classroom Reset OR Organizational Strategies for Busy Teachers	Wed.	April	30	Exploring Challenges > Finding Opportunities

Session Descriptions:

Most sessions are held in Zoom rooms differentiated by grade band and/or content area to allow for relevant breakout room conversations.

9/11/24- Creating Your Classroom Environment: The beginning of the school year is an opportunity to create a classroom climate where students and teachers can thrive. We'll work together to clearly articulate our classroom expectations, create a plan for teaching them, and find ways to celebrate successes along the way.

9/25/24- Positive Narration & Building Relationships: Two of the most effective classroom practices are the focus of this session - strong relationships with students and the use of positive narration to encourage productive behaviors. We'll have several opportunities for planning and practice as we learn together.

10/9/24 - Preparing for Formal Observations: Formal observations don't have to be scary! The Office of Evaluation will explain what to expect and how to collaborate with administrators to make the observation experience an impactful one that is focused on your professional growth and continuous development.

10/23/24- Reducing and Responding to Unproductive Behaviors: Unproductive behaviors can be found in any classroom - it's how we respond that makes the difference! Together we'll reflect on the functions of behavior and the assumptions we make, explore ways to reduce unproductive behaviors, and discuss how to redirect when needed.

11/6/24 - Option 1 - Building a Culture of Family Engagement: We welcome facilitators from the Office of Family & Community Engagement as we proactively plan for family engagement in the weeks leading up to report card conferences.

11/6/24- Option 2 - IEP Writing Workshop: This session is relevant for special education teachers who are responsible for writing IEPs. We'll share strategies for managing the process and then select breakout rooms designed to address common challenges.

11/20/24 - De-escalation Strategies: Escalation is a natural response to stress. Together we'll discuss the escalation sequence in order to select strategies for stress reduction/de-escalation. The Office of Prevention & Intervention is our partner for this session.

12/4/24 - Strategies for Active Engagement: Learning is active, not passive! In this session, we'll collaborate to build a culture of engagement and plan ways to encourage all students to fully participate in the lesson.

12/18/24 - Option 1 - Classroom Reset: Returning to learning after winter break is an excellent opportunity to reset and refresh your classroom environment. Together we'll explore ways to relaunch, reteach, and reinforce the routines and norms that contribute to an effective learning environment.

12/18/24 - Option 2 - Organizational Strategies for Busy Teachers: If your goal for the new year is to get organized, this is the session for you! We'll share ideas for organizing time and tasks in order to be "organized enough" to take care of our students and ourselves.

1/15/25 - Planning Effective Instruction: Planning a lesson is like planning for a road trip! We'll perform essential maintenance by engaging in intellectual preparation, plan the instructional route, and pack up for the metaphorical trip.

1/22/25 - Checking for Understanding: Instruction is most impactful when it is responsive to students' needs. In this session we'll explore formative assessment options and consider ways to adjust instruction accordingly.

2/12/25 - Fostering Independent Learners: Students that become independent learners will be college and career ready. In this session we'll explore ways to create a mistake-friendly classroom and strengthen students' capacity for information processing.

2/26/25 - Make Your Classroom HOT!: We know that higher-order thinking skills are important, but including them in daily instruction isn't always easy. Together we'll plan ways to encourage students to analyze, evaluate, and create as part of their daily learning.

3/12/25 - Site Selection / Certification / Career Pathways: Confused about site selection? Curious about Level II certification? Ready for leadership opportunities? The Offices of Talent, Certification, and Teaching & Learning will participate in a rotation-style session.

3/26/25 - Touchpoints for Student Engagement: In our last session of the year, we will work together to plan total participation strategies at the beginning, middle, and end of a lesson in order to fully engage all students.

4/9/25 - Welcoming Classroom Spaces: Students learn best in safe, welcoming, and affirming classrooms. Together we'll consider our students' needs and share resources for continued learning. This is important work and the conversation will feel unfinished.

4/30/25 - Exploring Challenges > Finding Opportunities: This session will feature breakout room conversations about real-world classroom challenges in order to find opportunities for creative solutions. Come with an asset-based mindset, ready for collaborative brainstorming. Participants will leave with next steps to try in their classroom.

This document: <https://tinyurl.com/teachPHL24-25>