

PLN Professional Development Technology Overview

In today's digital classroom, access to information and resources is seemingly infinite. Educators have the responsibility to curate the very best learning resources for students. Penn Literacy Network (PLN) professional development actively supports the potential of technology to transform learning opportunities for students by thoughtfully incorporating digital tools and experiences for learning. It focuses on infusing reflective practice, rigor, and a common language around learning with technology as well as research related to literacy in the classroom. When students are taught critical thinking strategies for reading and composing on digital devices, they are able to comprehend text, interpret what they read, and create meaningful products.

Technology is not viewed as an add-on but as a way to support teachers in guiding their students to access and analyze content related information, stretch their thinking, and demonstrate what they know. In the professional development sessions, participants partake in demonstrations and discussions about designing and implementing technology applications that foster independent and collaborative learning, accommodate learner differences, and empower students as content creators.

The participants' interaction with digital tools and content are supported by the research-based PLN frameworks - - The Four Lenses of Learning and The Five Reading, Writing, and Talking Processes. During the professional development sessions participants focus on:

- Developing a shared understanding of what effective technology integration looks like in a PLN classroom and its value in providing the experiences and conversations that will help students become critical consumers and producers of information.
- Designing activities that guide students to create digital products that engage them in critical thinking, collaboration, and authentic problem solving.
- Identifying routine instructional literacy strategies to guide students in their transfer of skills that make them effective readers of digital texts.
- Setting professional learning goals to explore and apply pedagogical approaches made possible by technology and reflecting on their effectiveness.
- Understanding how the PLN frameworks, The Four Lenses of Learning and The Five Reading, Writing, and Talking Processes provide school leaders and teachers with a common language for actively engaging students in research-based literacy practices across content areas through the intentional use of technology.
- Experiencing the Before During After lesson plan framework as a means for regularly incorporating technology in the classroom.