In a recent blog post, Learning Forward Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh says, “Lately when I talk to district leaders about professional learning, our conversation often turns to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Given the influence that the federal education law has on how districts plan and allocate resources, they are interested in Learning Forward’s view on implications for professional learning.”

Hirsh offers a number of questions for district leaders to consider, including:

• How does our district’s vision for professional learning align with and support our vision for student learning?

• What resources and structures do we have in place to ensure that our teachers and school leaders have daily opportunities to learn?

• How do the leadership practices of our district and school leaders sustain and support a learning culture?

“In my view, district leaders who prioritize building systems for professional learning will be best positioned to leverage ESSA to achieve excellence and equity in every school,” Hirsh says.


LEAP program at DC Public Schools assures coherence and relevance in teacher growth

District of Columbia Public Schools has received national attention for its human capital policies, and the results have been impressive. The district’s LEAP program (LEarning together to Advance our Practice) promises to continue the progress of the teacher growth. In this blog post, Learning Forward Senior Consultant Nick Morgan explores the big ideas behind the LEAP program.


Professional Learning Plans: A Workbook for States, Districts, and Schools

Professional learning plans establish short- and long-term guidance for professional learning and its implementation. This workbook offers information and tools to walk educators through seven planning steps, from data analysis to setting goals to identifying learning designs to monitoring impact. Effective plans help individuals, schools, districts, and states to coordinate learning experiences designed to achieve outcomes for educators and students.

www.learningforward.org/docs/default-source/commoncore/professional-learning-plans.pdf