**Standards for Professional Learning: Why they matter**

- They promote equity: When every educator has access to standards-based professional learning, all students have access to better teaching.
- They describe what is known about professional learning that leads to improved student results.
- They establish a common language for discussing and establishing what effective professional learning entails.
- They offer a framework for planning professional learning and a foundation for a comprehensive professional learning system.
- They require an explicit link between student learning and educator learning.
- They are useful in evaluating the impact of professional learning.
- They inform policy: More than 35 states have adopted or adapted the standards.
- They are grounded in research.

**Learning Forward’s Standards for Professional Learning** are the essential elements of professional learning that leads to changed practices for educators and thus to better outcomes for students.

**Keep in mind**

Standards can be a loaded word for many educators, including those in other nations. Some of our colleagues in Canada, for example, prefer the term principles.

Learn more about the Standards for Professional Learning at [www.learningforward.org/standards](http://www.learningforward.org/standards).