



WHY ADOPTION OF STANDARDS MATTERS

A total of 39 states have adopted, adapted, or endorsed the Standards for Professional Learning, including the standards issued in 2011 (labeled in red) and those published earlier (labeled in blue). Making a commitment to the standards is a commitment to continuous learning for all educators in a school.

WHAT ADOPTION MEANS

When a state adopts the standards, they become part of the state's policies and regulations.

In Arizona, for example, the standards are listed verbatim in a June 2012 state policy document with the statement, "These standards shall guide all ADE [Arizona Department of Education] involvement with Local Education Agencies (LEA), schools, programs (e.g. Early Childhood, CTE, Adult Education, etc.), and educators that are related to educators' professional learning and shall guide agency interactions with others in the formulation and execution of professional learning activities and policies. They shall guide ADE's planning, facilitation, implementation, and evaluation of professional learning" (Arizona Department of Education, 2012).

Other states share similar information in legislative documentation or state department of education policies.

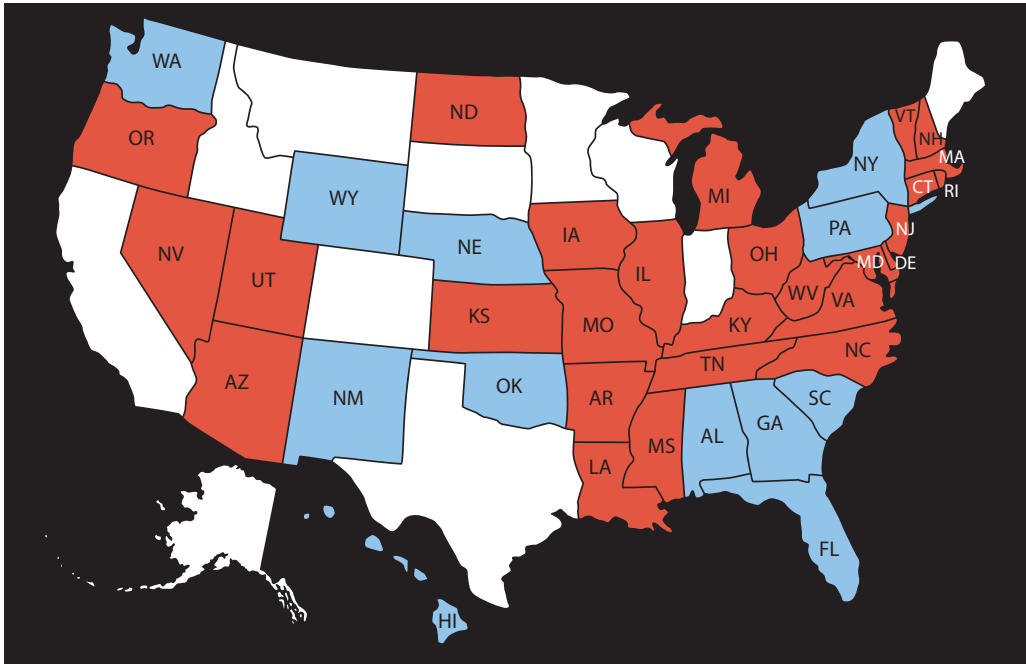
STANDARDS DRIVE POWERFUL LEARNING

Signing on to the Standards for Professional Learning indicates stakeholders' intention to hold professional learning to high expectations. They serve as an important tool in striving toward equity of access to powerful learning for all educators. If a state or local entity holds all learning

LEARNING FORWARD'S IMPACT

The map shows the 39 states that have adopted, adapted, or endorsed Learning Forward's Standards for Professional Learning.

■ 2011 version ■ previous versions



to rigorous standards, then every learner should experience high-quality learning. Making the standards a part of policy sets an explicit vision for learning at a high level and offers meaningful criteria for monitoring professional learning practices and results.

Having standards embedded in policy can also be useful in funding professional learning. If a state demands that any professional learning it funds must meet these standards, then investments are more likely to support effective learning. At the same time, through the standards adoption process, educators can advocate for learning that results in changes in educator practice so that students experience better teaching and learning.

ADOPTION IS THE FIRST STEP

While adoption is a great first step and essential in establishing meaningful systems

of professional learning, it isn't sufficient for ensuring great learning for all. Implementation of standards is where the action happens, as teachers and leaders working to bring college- and career-ready standards to life in classrooms experience every day. Implementation is the daily work of not only understanding standards and how they impact learning, but also integrating the intended shifts implicit in the standards into the planning, doing, and assessment of professional learning.

REFERENCE

Arizona Department of Education. (2012, June). *Policies and procedure: Professional development standards and practices.* Available at www.azed.gov/pdcapacitybuilding/files/2011/12/ge-25-professional-development-standards-06-12.pdf. ■

HOW HAS ADOPTION SHAPED YOUR PRACTICE?

Learning Forward is eager to hear how state and local adoption of standards has affected the learning you plan and the learning you experience. We're also interested to know which local education agencies have adopted the standards. Email learningforward@learningforward.org to share your experiences, get more information, or update the standards adoption map.