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Learning Communities


*Stephanie Hirsh & Tracy Crow*

*Becoming a Learning Team* offers teachers step-by-step guidance in using collaborative learning time to solve specific student learning challenges. This book outlines a process for using student data to craft student and educator learning goals leading to learning plans, implementation steps, and progress monitoring.

The second edition focuses more explicitly on the role of learning teams in implementing high-quality instructional materials and what that means for student and educator learning goals and agendas. Access to dozens of online tools is included with purchase.

Teacher teams and school leaders can use the tools and strategies to:

- Understand the value and importance of collaborative learning to improve teaching and learning;
- Launch a learning team cycle with five key stages;
- Support the meaningful implementation of high-quality instructional materials;
- Implement each of the five stages with specific strategies and supporting protocols;
- Adapt the cycle to fit specific school and district calendars and initiatives; and
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**Team to Teach: A Facilitator’s Guide to Professional Learning Teams**

*Anne Jolly*

This step-by-step book includes everything facilitators need to help educators build a successful professional learning team. Written in easy-to-read language, background sections set the stage for each of 10 chapters that steer groups through the process. A comprehensive set of tools, totaling 150 pages, enables facilitators and learning team leaders to take the necessary actions that will lead to high-performing teams. Free with purchase: Online access to download a PDF of the tools.

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**The Power of Teacher Teams: With Cases, Analyses, and Strategies for Success**

*Vivian Troen & Katherine C. Boles*

Through richly detailed case studies, *The Power of Teacher Teams* demonstrates how schools can transform their teams into more effective learning communities that foster teacher leadership. School leaders will find guidelines, methods, and concrete steps for building and sustaining effective teacher teams. Also included are online video case studies. The most important reason for building teacher teams is to enhance student learning through improved instruction — and that story is at the heart of this book. Co-published with Corwin.

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**Professional Learning Communities by Design: Putting the Learning Back Into PLCs**

*Lois Brown Easton*

Follow the PLC creation and implementation process through the school year, starting with setting the stage, moving through structures and protocols, and focusing ultimately on the future to ensure results for all students. Award-winning educator Lois Brown Easton’s book provides a compelling case study in narrative form; a chronological PLC planning outline; and first-hand lessons learning about how PLCs develop, mature, and sustain themselves.

B514, 304 pp. $48.00 Members $60.00 Nonmembers
“Great schools are places of optimal learning, for students and teachers. Collaborating with purpose, focusing on the learning needs of students, and using evidence to guide collective professional learning decisions are the essential elements that Stephanie Hirsh and Tracy Crow examine in this book.”

Rod Allen, superintendent, Cowichan Valley School District 2557, Duncan, British Columbia
Coaching & Teacher Support

Taking the Lead: New Roles for Teachers and School-based Coaches, Second Edition

Joellen Killion & Cindy Harrison

This second edition updates Learning Forward's essential text about the complex and multifaceted roles that teacher leaders and school-based coaches play as they advance student success through teaching quality.

Features include:
- Updated review of the evidence on the effects of coaching;
- Deep discussions about the 10 roles of coaches;
- Real-world vignettes based on authentic experiences of coaches;
- Focus on the culture of coaching and the power of team coaching;
- Strategies for troubleshooting challenges to coaching; and
- Guidance for school- and system leaders who create the conditions supporting coaches and coaching programs.

With new content ranging from the strategic to the specific, this practical resource guides school-based coaches and leaders in the practice of student-focused coaching. System leaders may use Taking the Lead as they advocate the design of a coaching program focused on team, school, and district learning goals. School-based coaches and teacher leaders will find advice for coaching a reluctant colleague, drawing up an effective working agreement, reflecting on their own practice, or troubleshooting a challenge.

B606, 244 pp. + online tools $36.00 Members $45.00 Nonmembers

The Coach’s Craft: Powerful Practices to Support School Leaders

Kay Psencik

Coaching leaders demands high-level skills that challenge even the most knowledgeable and experienced coaches. Grow in confidence and competence in the coaching role by exploring the foundation of highly effective coaching, attributes of successful coaches, and strategies for coaching.

Define effective coaching using an Innovation Configuration map, learn new ways of thinking that lead to more effective coaching, and understand how to develop a coach’s wisdom. Learn to create a purposeful, focused action plan. Establish goals, and design strategies to achieve them.

B530, 211 pp. $32.00 Members $40.00 Nonmembers
Coaching Matters
Joellen Killion, Cindy Harrison, Chris Bryan, & Heather Clifton

Does coaching matter? Yes! Coaching can increase teacher effectiveness and student learning. Successful coaching, however, doesn’t happen just by hiring dynamic coaches. Successful coaching requires strong leadership, a clear focus and goals, essential resources, well-prepared staff, monitoring, and rigorous evaluations.

Each chapter in this book describes an element of what research and the authors’ firsthand experiences know it takes to make coaching effective. The book covers:
- Characteristics that distinguish effective coaching programs;
- Attributes that affect teaching practices, student achievement, and school culture;
- Practices that lead to results for teachers and students;
- Responsibilities of coaches;
- Strategies for individual coaches, principals, and school systems to build a stronger coaching program; and more.

Every chapter is accompanied by tools, including additional readings, resources to use with teachers, strategies for accomplishing the work, and real-life examples.

B542, 191 pp. + online tools
$36.00 Members $45.00 Nonmembers

The research shared in Coaching Matters on coaching practices and their impact on improving teacher and student learning is critical. The book gives us immediate access to the tools, resources, and strategies we need to support coaches and system leaders. Coaching Matters is my ‘go to’ book.”

Courtney W. Bitar, Coordinator, Instructional Coaching Program
Fairfax County Public Schools

High Expectations Teaching: How We Persuade Students to Believe and Act on Smart Is Something You Can Get
Jon Saphier
B603, 248 pages
$30.00 Members $37.50 Nonmembers

Getting Teacher Evaluation Right: What Really Matters for Effectiveness and Improvement
Linda Darling-Hammond
B555, 192 pp.
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Student Voice: The Instrument of Change
Russell J. Quaglia & Michael J. Corso
B580, 216 pp.
$37.50 Members $30.00 Nonmembers
Leadership

Change, Lead, Succeed: Building Capacity with School Leadership Teams
Linda Munger & Valerie von Frank

Redefine leadership in your school, and create capacity through school leadership teams that successfully coordinate professional learning. Change, Lead, Succeed shows school leaders and teachers in leadership roles what they need to know to effectively create a culture for change.

Find out what distinguishes a school leadership team from other school teams, clarify the school leadership team’s role in building school capacity through job-embedded, school-centered professional learning, and go beyond merely setting school goals to achieving them. Use Change, Lead, Succeed to create a team of teacher leaders who can make a difference — for both teacher and student learning.

B468, 150 pp. + CD-ROM
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A School Board Guide to Leading Successful Schools
Stephanie Hirsh & Anne Foster

This invaluable guide addresses the top challenges experienced by nearly every school board, and shows how professional learning can assist in overcoming these challenges and support positive changes. Aligned with Learning Forward’s Standards for Professional Learning, this resource enables board members to:

- Learn from case studies focused on 12 critical board-level decisions, including hiring a new superintendent, resource allocation; and
- Deepen your understanding of leadership and actions that advance school success and benefit the wider community.

Co-published with Corwin.
B562, 248 pp.
$37.00 Members
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The Life Cycle of Leadership: Surviving and Thriving in Today’s Schools
Stephen Uebbing & Mike Ford

The challenges of leadership come in distinct cycles of survival, creation, and legacy, according to the authors. Learn to recognize the challenges of each cycle and be ready to adjust your leadership to match your context using research-based strategies. Understand how a clear moral purpose can enhance every leader’s ability to lead effective change.

B487, 166 pp.
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Learning Designs & Facilitation

**Powerful Designs for Professional Learning, Third Edition**  
*Lois Brown Easton*

Filled with 24 learning designs, the latest edition of Learning Forward’s bestseller helps educators understand the kinds of learning experiences that result in changed practices and better results for students. The book includes chapters authored by more than 30 of the field’s leading experts in adult learning.

The broad range of designs allows educators to find the best strategies for their particular needs and circumstances. Each chapter includes a narrative about the design in use, an overview and rationale, concrete steps for implementation, alternatives, and challenges and how to address them.

This comprehensive resource includes a link and password to dozens of exclusive online resources.

**B587, 384 pp. + online tools**  
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**Opening Doors to Equity: A Practical Guide to Observation-Based Professional Learning**  
*Tonya Ward Singer*

This compelling book is a call to action, focused on observation-based professional learning to elevate teaching practice. Learn how to bring team observation into the classroom to test, refine and transform instruction so that students of all backgrounds achieve. Ideal for classroom teachers, grade-level team facilitators, department chairs, and all education leaders, this guide shows how to:

- Create a culture of deep collaboration that closes opportunity gaps among students;
- Effectively redesign instruction to reach culturally and linguistically diverse learners, using observation data and shared best practices;
- Center instructional conversations on developing students’ skills for college and career success, including hard-to-assess skills.

**B589, 248 pp.**  
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**Lab Class: Professional Learning Through Collaborative Inquiry and Student Observation**  
*Lisa Cranston*

Meaningful growth in teacher practice comes when we invest in teacher-led, inquiry-based collaborative models where teachers get to roll up their sleeves and study what’s really going on in classrooms.

*Lab Class* introduces an observation-based professional learning design that helps teachers collaboratively plan, investigate, and develop solutions to a specific problem of practice by observing a host teacher’s classroom through the eyes of students. Close the knowing-doing gap by bringing professional learning out of workshops and back where it belongs – in the classroom!

**B612, 168 pp.**  
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To take on public education’s incredible day-to-day challenges and thrive, educators must demonstrate the skills to create positive change in the work environment, climb career ladders, and build a pipeline for others to do the same. Anyone hoping to grow professionally—in any industry—would benefit by reading Becoming a Learning System.

**Daniel A. Domenech**, Executive Director, AASA, The School Superintendents Association

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**Becoming a Learning System,** Revised Edition

*Stephanie Hirsh, Kay Psencik, & Frederick Brown*

Every student should have the opportunity to attend a great school filled with great teachers. This book explores the idea that, for this to happen, school districts must become learning systems.

In a learning system, every educator in the district focuses intently on learning—at whatever level they serve. Those educators share responsibility for student and adult learning, dedicate themselves to continuous improvement, use data to drive decisions, and monitor and adjust their practices based on feedback.

This revised edition—based on Learning Forward’s definition of professional learning and Standards for Professional Learning, which together offer district leaders a framework to guide daily decisions that promote continuous improvement—includes more intentional focus on the role of curriculum and instructional materials in a learning system.

Like other books in this series, Becoming a Learning School and Becoming a Learning Team, the chapters of Becoming a Learning System are supplemented by a comprehensive collection of online tools.

**B609, 240 pp. + online tools**

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**Becoming a Learning School**

*Joellen Killion & Patricia Roy*

The days of teachers toiling alone on student learning challenges are coming to a close as more and more educators understand the power of collaborative learning. When educators throughout a school commit collectively to transforming their buildings into learning schools, students reap the benefits.

However, effective professional learning communities do not just happen when schools bring groups of learners together. They take focused effort to build and sustain. From setting the stage to engaging the community in understanding the purpose of collaborative professional learning teams, this volume covers what leaders need to know to implement more effective professional learning.

Chapters focus on changing school culture, scheduling time, planning, using data, designs for professional learning, facilitating collaborative professional learning teams, evaluating learning, and more. The book outlines the roles of central office administrators, the principal, and the coach in creating successful, effective learning teams. An accompanying CD includes nearly 500 pages of tools. In addition, using the included Innovation Configuration map, teams can assess just where they stand in reaching critical objectives for effective learning.

Build on the ideas in this book and purchase Becoming a Learning System as well.

**B423, 177 pp. + CD-ROM**

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Assessing Impact: Evaluating Staff Development, Third Edition
Joellen Killion
With increasing accountability pressure for evidence-based strategies and ever-tightening budgets, you want to make sure that the time, effort, and resources you are investing in your professional learning programs is truly making an impact on educator effectiveness and student achievement.
In this third edition of Assessing Impact, Joellen Killion guides administrators, professional learning leaders, school improvement teams, and evaluators step by step through the rigors of producing an effective, in-depth, results-based analysis of your professional learning programs. A recognized expert in professional learning, Killion emphasizes the critical role of evaluation in bolstering effectiveness and retaining stakeholder support for ongoing educator development.
Co-published with Corwin.
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The Learning Educator: A New Era for Professional Learning
Stephanie Hirsh & Joellen Killion
Hirsh and Killion outline eight principles to ensure that professional learning will improve leading, teaching, and learning.
This book helps readers understand what qualifies as effective professional learning, enables them to believe that this kind of professional learning is possible, and provides a blueprint that enables thought leaders, researchers, and practitioners to join together in this crucial work.
B372, 140 pp.
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Inquiry: A Districtwide Approach to Staff and Student Learning
Nancy Fichtman Dana, Carol Thomas, & Sylvia Boynton
This book helps districts define, develop, and implement a systematic inquiry-based process with a laser-like focus on both adult and student learning. The authors’ school improvement model offers a fresh look at how to improve the quality of teaching and learning across a district. Administrators, teachers, and students will find an invaluable road map for tackling real-world challenges and taking control of their own learning.
Co-published with Corwin.
B529, 173 pp.
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Standards for Professional Learning

Now in its third iteration, the standards define the essential elements of and conditions for professional learning if improvements in educator effectiveness and student learning are to be realized. The latest standards represent the work of many organizations and associations. In developing this version, Learning Forward and its partners examined the latest research and practice in professional learning to create a template for professional learning. Everyone who funds, plans, facilitates, participates in, and advocates for effective professional learning should engage in reading and discussion of the standards. This work is supported in part by MetLife Foundation.

BS12, 64 pp.
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A Playbook for Professional Learning: Putting the Standards into Action
Stephanie Hirsh & Shirley Hord

Introducing A Playbook for Professional Learning, your practical guide to facilitating professional learning in your workplace by two experts in the field. Authors Stephanie Hirsh and Shirley Hord provide examples of real problems facing educators and how to apply the Standards for Professional Learning to resolve these issues. Easy-to-follow activities for each chapter will help you and your colleagues develop the capacity to use the standards at different levels. Don’t let the road ahead take you into an educational wasteland. Use this book to move knowledge into action to benefit all students.

BS40, 208 pp.
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The Standards for Professional Learning and the Innovation Configuration Maps form the foundational library for anyone concerned with effective professional learning and improved student achievement.

Standards into Practice: School System Roles
Innovation Configuration maps are designs to help guide implementation of the Standards for Professional Learning. Standards into Practice: School System Roles highlights the actions of those learning leaders in four role groups: central office, director of professional learning, superintendent, and school board. This book, like the volume for school-based roles, includes IC maps to make explicit how specific educators contribute to deep standards implementation.
B556, 228 pp.
$48.00 Members
$60.00 Nonmembers

Standards into Practice: School-Based Roles
Standards into Practice: School-Based Roles brings the latest Innovation Configuration (IC) maps for those educators working in schools each day. In this volume, find IC maps for teachers, coaches/teacher leaders, principals, and school leadership teams. This book presents IC maps with introductory material that explains the concept and use of such tools and their application to professional learning.
B544, 294 pp.
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$60.00 Nonmembers

Standards into Practice: External Roles
Innovation Configuration (IC) maps are essential tools for identifying the precise actions educators take to guide implementation of Learning Forward’s Standards for Professional Learning. The third volume of Innovation Configuration maps pinpoints the actions of those learning leaders working in roles outside of schools and school systems: education agencies, external partners, institutes for higher education, and professional associations. Each volume of IC maps includes resources to understand the use of these tools and their application to professional learning.
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Karen Seashore Louis, Shirley M. Hord, & Valerie Von Frank
This volume focuses on the pathways through which leaders can orchestrate a learning environment that empowers teachers to take charge of their own development. Features include:

- An original essay by Karen Seashore Louis on creating a school culture in which all adults see themselves as part of the larger enterprise of continuous learning
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- A case study of how public school leaders in Lexington, Massachusetts, improved outcomes for the district’s students by building trust, developing collaborative capacity, and fostering leadership at all levels of the system.

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Reach the Highest Standard in Professional Learning: Resources
Karen Hawley Miles, Anna Sommers, Patricia Roy, & Valerie von Frank
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- An original essay by Karen Hawley Miles and Anna Sommers on how school systems can reconfigure people, time, technology, and money to improve and sustain educator growth;
- Implementation strategies, practical tools, and specific examples for maximizing resources—especially time—for teacher learning; and
- A case study of how Dearborn Public Schools, Michigan, shifted existing resources to drive professional learning despite tough economic times.

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B597, 136 pp.  $26.00 Members  $32.50 Nonmembers

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Ann Lieberman, Lynne Miller, Patricia Roy, Shirley M. Hord, & Valerie von Frank
This book is one in a series exploring each of Learning Forward’s seven Standards for Professional Learning, which outline the characteristics of effective professional learning. In this book, the authors help readers understand what it takes to establish and maintain professional learning communities (PLCs) that align with the Learning Forward standards and increase educator effectiveness in order to provide the best outcomes for students.

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*Randall & Delores Lindsey, Patricia Roy, Shirley M. Hord, & Valerie Von Frank*

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- Practical tools that guide leaders in finding coherence between performance standards for educators and curriculum standards for students.

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Standards into Practice

Digital Download! Now available as PDFs – you can purchase the Innovation Configuration Maps for Standards for Professional Learning for individual job roles. Each Innovation Configuration map highlights the actions of learning leaders that lead to the implementation of the Standards for Professional Learning. The maps make explicit, by job title, what educators do to plan, implement, and monitor effective professional learning that leads to improved educator practice, leadership, and student outcomes.

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**December, 2019: Coaching**
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**April, 2019: English Learners**
Nearly five million students come to U.S. schools speaking over 400 home languages. Are educators prepared to help them succeed? In this issue, experts share professional learning strategies for working more intentionally and inclusively to meet English learners’ needs.

Visit [learningforward.org/bookstore](http://learningforward.org/bookstore) to view the full archive of past issues.

Stephanie Hirsh & Tracy Crow

Becoming a Learning Team offers teachers step-by-step guidance in using collaborative learning time to solve specific student learning challenges. This book outlines a process for using student data to craft student and educator learning goals leading to learning plans, implementation steps, and progress monitoring.

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  Stephanie Hirsh and Tracy Crow

- **Assessing Impact**
  Joellen Killion

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  Kendall Zoller

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