

### APPLICATION ACTIVITY

This application activity is intended to help you use exemplary teacher development performance and programs in K-12 schools in the United States. It is a practical example that supports basic themes and theories in instructional leadership.

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### Professional Development Through Learning Communities | Published 5.1.99

An adaptation of this article is also published in the *Edutopia* newsletter ([www.glef.org/edutopiaarc.html](http://www.glef.org/edutopiaarc.html)).

#### Possible Applications:

Read "Professional Development Through Learning Communities" carefully with a view to what its contents imply for a building principal in a K-8 school setting.

Task 1: Contemplate the quote below and other information gleaned from the online article on learning communities.

"The concept of continuous professional development in which teachers are given time to collaborate with colleagues and update knowledge and skills and are expected to assume much of the responsibility for their own professional growth and development has been identified by teachers as a critical element in school reform." (OTA, 1995)

- A. Identify the barriers found in a typical school setting that make it difficult for teachers and school leaders to meet these expectations.
- B. Determine what you, as a school leader, might be able to provide as solutions.
- C. Present your activity, either in class or in some written or electronic format specified by your instructor.

Task 2: Using the resources from this module and/or other tools you prefer, research different approaches to providing resources for staff development within a typical K-12 school.

- A. Clearly define resources.
- B. Review the results of your search critically.

- C. Provide a professional, executive summary.
- D. Interpret the results of the article in terms of its implications for your situation or anticipated situation as principal.

Task 3: Conduct a similar search for at least one additional article that focuses on resource allocation for staff development in a K-12 environment.

- A. Specifically define resources.
- B. Review the article critically.
- C. Present your activity, either in class or in some written or electronic format specified by your instructor.

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**The following Web site(s) appear in this activity:**

"Professional Development Through Learning Communities" article:  
[www/glef.org/TSD/pd.html](http://www/glef.org/TSD/pd.html)