

## FACT SHEET

### SPDG Professional Learning Communities

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#### **Purpose**

In 2010 at the request of grantees the Signetwork launched several professional learning communities on a variety of topics. The purpose of the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) is to provide an opportunity for states to connect with one another and share best practices, tools and resources on topics of interest. Our current PLC topics include:

- 1) Adolescent Literacy;
- 2) Coaching;
- 3) Behavior and School Climate;
- 4) Collaboration with Institutes of Higher Education, Leadership Development, Capacity Building and Restructuring;
- 5) Evaluators
- 6) Family Involvement;
- 7) Grant Management;
- 8) Implementation Conversations
- 9) Low Incidence
- 10) Multi-tiered Models of Intervention / Response to Intervention
- 11) Scaling Up and Comprehensive Professional Development Approaches;
- 12) Secondary Transition; and
- 13) Technology

#### **About PLC Membership**

Each topical PLC has developed its own membership engagement protocols: how often they meet, who can join the community, and how they will engage with another during their online meetings. Most groups prefer to focus on resource/tool sharing, but there are some groups who are interested in participating in discussions to learn about strategies to address challenges. Members are asked to volunteer to present and or facilitate on calls.

To coordinate the groups, an OSEP Project Officer and the Signetwork Coordinator are available to assist in moderating and facilitating the group sessions, and assist with determining the content of

presentations and/or discussions. In addition, the SIGnetwork Coordinator disseminates meeting announcements, uploads materials to the website events page, and shares relevant news and information with members as needed.

#### **How to Join**

Those interested in participating in one or more of the Professional Learning Communities are required to register to the Signetwork website collaborative tools by completing the following the steps:

1. Go to:  
[http://signetwork.org/users/reg\\_pass\\_required](http://signetwork.org/users/reg_pass_required)
2. Type in the password: sig
3. Complete all the registration fields.
4. Select which topical PLC groups to join

Within 1-2 days of completing the registration form, new subscribers will receive a confirmation message from Signetwork staff. After registering, members will receive meeting reminders, resource news and information, and access to the online collaborative tools – wikis and discussion forums.

#### **Digital Collaborative Tools**

On the Signetwork offers a separate wiki – or online collaborative space – for community members to view and download tools and resources shared during virtual and face-to-face meetings, and members can upload content and make comments about the resources shared. The tools and resources posted to the wikis are only accessible to members. On a regular basis, the tools will be made available. In addition to the wikis, PLC participants can access discussion forums or threaded discussions on topics generated by the members.