

STAFF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Continued professional growth and increased effectiveness on the part of the professional staff are essential for the success of educational programs and school operations. Professional growth of all staff members will be encouraged on an individual basis through planned inservice programs, and through district-sponsored training sessions. As required by SED, the district has developed a Professional Development Plan built around district-identified needs and goals. This plan was developed, and is updated yearly, by a committee of administrators, teachers and parents. Staff development opportunities will include, within budgetary limitations:

1. Special inservice courses and workshops.
2. Courses and workshops sponsored by the school district, universities, The State Education Department, and special-interest organizations such as Suffolk County Organization for the Promotion of Education (SCOPE).
3. Targeted district-sponsored training sessions, including coaching, mentoring and in class support.
4. Visitations to other classrooms and to other schools.
5. Attendance at professional conferences and meetings.
6. Membership on committees and in professional societies.
7. Professional internships.

As an incentive for professional development, the negotiated agreement between the Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers (PMCT) and the school district contains clauses which allow for the reimbursement of expenses or for an upgrading in salary classifications for individual staff members who become involved in certain professional growth opportunities. The superintendent of schools or the school superintendent's designee will have authority to approve release time for conferences, visitations, and meetings and to reimburse the participants in such activities as permitted within the school district's budgetary allocations.

Staff Development for Programs Relating to Students with Disabilities Subsection 4131.1

In recognition of the fact that many teachers and administrators are responsible for the educational programs for students who are classified as having a disability, the Board of Education will promote special development opportunities to prepare staff members to undertake the responsibilities relating to the education of children with disabilities. The school district

Staff Development Opportunities (Continued)
Staff Development for Programs Relating to Students
with Disabilities, Subsection 4131.1 (Continued)

relies upon a number of agencies and consultants to provide this training. These include Special Education Training and Resource Centers (SETRC), BOCES, SED, private consultants and district personnel with special expertise.

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