

SAS Professional Learning Communities: Guidelines for Creating a Community

SAS Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are collaborative learning environments for educators in which they can reflect on practice with colleagues; share expertise and resources; and build a common understanding of instructional approaches, standards, and curriculum.

Individuals interested in establishing a community should review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) prior to creating a new community. After a FAQ review, individuals may click on *Create New Community* in the *Find Communities* section of the SAS Portal.

Is there a community that already addresses the topic or theme?

Please conduct a keyword search in the *My Communities* section of the SAS portal to see if a community or forum already exists for your desired topic or theme in order to avoid duplication.

Is the PLC purpose broad enough to support a multitude of interactions and discussions?

A community that relies too heavily on a single focus can get tiring quickly. Challenge yourself to find a topic that there will be enough interest in and knowledge of to promote active participation.

Is there a strong relationship to Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) priorities?

The Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System (SAS) is a collaborative product of research and good practice that identifies six distinct elements which when utilized together, provide schools and districts a common framework for continuous school and district enhancement and improvement. Your community should add to discussion on furthering student achievement in the Commonwealth.

Who will moderate the community?

Professional Learning Community moderators will monitor content posted by community members and must prohibit content that can detract from the experience of other members or the purposes of the community. A request must include the name of at least one individual willing to moderate the community. If the moderator role may exceed an individual's level of commitment, co-moderators may be named.

Will the community be ongoing or does it have a finite end date?

Some communities may be short-term and may be established for the purpose of giving participants in a special project, conference, etc., a place to come together for discussion and sharing resources. Other communities may focus on topics that are enduring and may continue in the long term.

Requests must include an end date for a community if it will be short-term in nature. (Note: Ongoing communities that do not maintain a consistent level of activity will be removed from SAS once the moderator has been notified.)

Additional information? Contact the SAS Portal Help Desk at helpdesk@pdesas.org, or toll free at 1-877- 973-3727.