



Center for Research on the Context of Teaching
Stanford University

Austin Independent School District

Survey for Teachers Involved in DL Professional Development *(Web-based Survey)*

Spring 2008

ABOUT THE SURVEY

This survey is being conducted by the Center for Research on the Context of Teaching (CRC) at Stanford University as part of an evaluation of high school improvement efforts in Austin Independent School District (AISD).

This survey includes all high school teachers who have been involved in professional development in Disciplinary Literacy (DL) conducted by the Institute for Learning (IFL) in the district. Questions focus on school and district instructional support and on your experiences with the DL-PLC initiative. Time needed to complete this survey is approximately 30-40 minutes. *[for web survey only: If you cannot complete the survey at once, you can come back and start from the page you left by clicking on the link in the email we sent you.]*

Responses are entirely confidential. The survey is governed by stringent Stanford University regulations designed to ensure the privacy of individuals' responses. All survey results will be reported only in statistical summaries so that **individuals cannot be identified.**

Thank you for contributing your time and thought to this survey.

* * * * *

1. Please indicate your primary area of teaching.

English / Language Arts	1 <input type="radio"/>
Math	2 <input type="radio"/>
Science	3 <input type="radio"/>
Social Studies	4 <input type="radio"/>
Other (write in):	5 <input type="radio"/>

2. a) How many years have you worked full-time as a teacher in an elementary or secondary school?
(Include this school year.) _____ years

b) How many years have you taught in this school? _____ years

c) How many years have you taught in the Austin Independent School District?
_____ years

INSTRUCTIONAL CLIMATE AND LEADERSHIP

3. How well does each of the following statements describe your *school's instructional climate*?

Teachers in my school ...	Strongly disagree Strongly agree				
a. Have a clear vision of instruction linked to standards for student learning and growth.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
b. Openly examine and acknowledge progress towards an instructional vision.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
c. Have made changes designed to better meet the needs of the school's diverse student body.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
d. Are engaged in systematic analysis of student performance data.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
f. Have well-defined plans for instructional improvement....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
g. Are engaged in systematic analysis of teaching practices...	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
h. Review student learning and understanding in order to adjust their practices.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>

4 This question concerns *how teachers in your content area interact with one another regularly*. How many teachers do each of the following?

Teachers in my content area ...	No teachers	Few teachers	About half the teachers	Most teachers	All teachers
a. Share ideas on teaching.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
b. Discuss what you/they learned at a workshop or conference.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
c. Share and discuss student work.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
d. Discuss particular lessons that were not very successful.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
e. Discuss beliefs about teaching and learning.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
f. Share and discuss research on effective teaching methods.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
g. Share and discuss research on effective instructional practices for English language learners.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
h. Explore new teaching approaches to increase student engagement and understanding.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
i. Observe each other's classroom instruction.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
j. Plan lessons and units together.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>

5 Now consider *instruction in your content area*. To what extent does each statement describe teaching practices?

Teachers in my content area ...	Strongly disagree					Strongly agree				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
a. Communicate clear expectations to students.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
b. Create learning environments in which efforts pays off....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
c. Recognize student accomplishments that meet standards or benchmarks for progress.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
d. Provide an academically rigorous curriculum.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
e. Promote accountable talk in their classrooms.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
f. Help students self-manage and self-monitor their learning.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

6. Considering *all teachers' classes in your content area*, in your estimation, in about how many classes do students do each of the following?

Students in the class...	No classes		Few classes		About half the classes		Most classes		All classes	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a. Learn core concepts and habits of thinking	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
b. Learn by “doing” the discipline, i.e., doing tasks that mirror the work of the discipline.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
c. Can explain how and why their class activities help them understand a concept.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
d. Ask questions and insist on understanding the answers....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
e. Learn from one another through classroom discussion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
f. Persist in working on challenging tasks.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
g. Work in pairs or groups during most class periods	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
h. Engage in self-assessment that develops their ability to effectively manage their own learning.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7. This question concerns the **professional climate of your school**. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the statements below.

The principal ...	Strongly Agree					Strongly Disagree				
a. Inspires the very best in the job performance of all teachers.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
b. Supports regular use of student assessment data.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
c. Supports our school’s redesign effort.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
d. Promotes teachers’ ongoing professional development.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
e. Ensures that student learning is the “bottom line” in our school.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
f. Is increasing support for teaching and learning.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
g. Supports the development of teacher professional learning communities in our school.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
h. Provides time and money for teachers to collaborate and plan together.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

8. This question concerns the **professional climate of your district’s central office**. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the statements below.

The central office ...	Strongly Agree					Strongly Disagree				
a. Helps my school focus on teaching and learning.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
b. Is committed to high standards for every student.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
c. Supports local innovation.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
d. Inspires the very best in the job performance of its teachers.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
e. Holds high expectations for our school.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
a. Supports my school’s redesign effort.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
g. Promotes the professional development of teachers.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
h. Ensures that student learning is the “bottom line” in our school.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
i. Provides support for teaching and learning.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
j. Supports the development of teacher professional learning communities in our school.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
k. Allows high schools the flexibility to choose and adapt new programs and practices.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
l. Seeks input from teachers and listens to their ideas and concerns.....	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

DL-PLC INITIATIVE

9. How many DL training sessions run by the Institute for Learning (IFL) have you attended? (circle one number for each year)

	0	1	2	3	4+
This year.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
Last year.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>

10. Do you lead or co-lead a PLC in your school?

Yes.....	1 <input type="radio"/>
No.....	2 <input type="radio"/>

If no → please skip to Question 13

If yes, please identify the PLC(s) that you lead:

Grade level group.....	1 <input type="radio"/>
Course group.....	2 <input type="radio"/>
Department.....	3 <input type="radio"/>
SLC.....	4 <input type="radio"/>
Other (specify):	5 <input type="radio"/>

11. Do you have regular time committed to meet?

Yes.....	1 <input type="radio"/>
No.....	2 <input type="radio"/>

If no → please skip to Question 13

If yes, how often do you meet?

Daily.....	1 <input type="radio"/>
Weekly.....	2 <input type="radio"/>
Monthly.....	3 <input type="radio"/>
Other (specify):	4 <input type="radio"/>

12. a) How many teachers are in your **primary PLC** (where you do most of your work on DL lessons and instructional planning)? _____

b) How many of these teachers have taught at least one DL-like lesson this year? _____

13. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following has been a focus in your **primary PLC** (where you do most of your work on DL lessons and instructional planning) this year.

Our primary PLC has focused on ...	Not a focus	Minor focus	Moderate focus	Major focus
a. Learning to use the Protocol for Studying Student Work.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
b. Examining student tasks/assignments	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
c. Discussing features of DL lessons and/or units.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
d. Developing or selecting DL lessons and/or units.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
e. Organizing Learning Walks.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
f. Learning to use the DL Observation Protocol.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
g. Learning to use content-specific DL tools (e.g., ELA Design Features).....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
h. Other: _____	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>

14. To what extent does your **principal support** your PLC leadership role in each of the following ways?

My principal ...	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree
a. Is informed about the content and process of the DL-PLC model.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
b. Works in a collaborative partnership with me.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
c. Provides time for teachers in my PLC to work together....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
d. Follows up with me to see how the DL lessons are working for teachers and students.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
e. Encourages teachers to implement DL lessons and practices.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>

15. Various **DL-PLC leadership practices** are listed below. For each, please a) indicate how prepared you felt to do this **before** beginning DL Professional Development (starting last year or this year), and b) how prepared you feel **now** to do this.

a) BEFORE beginning DL professional development, I felt ...				to work with teachers in the following ways ...	b) NOW I feel ...			
Not well prepared	Somewhat prepared	Fairly well prepared	Very well prepared		Not well prepared	Somewhat prepared	Fairly well prepared	Very well prepared
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	a. Facilitate instructionally focused group meetings.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	b. Conference with individuals.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	c. Look closely at student work.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	d. Plan instruction together.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	e. Examine instructional practices to make sure they promote academic rigor and student learning.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	f. Develop more rigorous questions for class discussion.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	g. Other (write in):.....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>

16. Overall, how well has the DL professional development (starting last year or this year) prepared you for the role of a Lead Teacher?

Not well at all				Extremely well
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>

17. How has the DL-PLC program *enhanced your own skills and knowledge as a classroom teacher*? For each, please indicate a) how well prepared you felt to do this before beginning DL Professional Development, and b) how prepared you feel now.

a) BEFORE beginning DL professional development, I felt ...				To do the following in my classroom ...	b) NOW I feel ...			
Not well prepared	Somewhat prepared	Fairly well prepared	Very well prepared		Not well prepared	Somewhat prepared	Fairly well prepared	Very well prepared
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	a. Teach DL lessons	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	b. Engage students in classroom discussion	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	c. Challenge students to think deeply about content	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	d. Develop or select my own rigorous lessons	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	e. Link lessons to assessments	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	f. Organize students to work in pairs or groups	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	g. Apply DL principles to classroom instruction	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	h. Other (write in):	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>

18. Please indicate how much *support of your DL-PLC leadership* you receive from each of the following people.

Extent of support I receive from...	None	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial	Complete
a. Teachers in my content area	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
b. Teacher Leaders in other content areas	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
c. Department Chair (if you are not chair)	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
d. SLC leader	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
e. Principal	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
f. District office staff	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
g. DL-PLC consultants	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>
h. Other (write in):	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>

19. a) How many lessons with DL features have you taught in your classroom this year? _____
 b) Have you developed other lessons using DL ideas? Yes No

20. Now consider how DL-PLC has made a difference for teaching and learning in your content area in your school. For each of the following outcomes, please indicate how much difference DL-PLC has made.

	No benefits	Minor benefits	Considerable benefits	Major benefits
a. Selection or development of rigorous lessons.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Teacher collaboration on instruction.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Teachers asking more of their students.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Student engagement.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Student test performance.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Other (write in): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Please indicate how the district-wide high school redesign work (SLCs) and the DL-PLC work play out in your school.

AISD's high school redesign and DL-PLC....	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree
a. Support each other in theory.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Support each in practice.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Compete for teachers' limited time available for PD.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Compete for teachers' limited time to meet together.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please write any comments you wish to make about your experiences with the DL-PLC Program.

THANK YOU FOR THE TIME AND THOUGHT YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THIS SURVEY!