Concepts addressed:
Resources Available for Professional Development and Learning

Professional Literature

- Stay current in your field by reading professional materials.
- Subscribe to educational magazines and journals, which are filled with a wealth of teaching ideas and classroom tips.
- Utilize the Internet to find hundreds of sites that will support your teaching and classroom management.

Colleagues

- Seek out a fellow teacher to serve as a mentor, someone you can go to for information and support.
- Seek out other new teachers and meet regularly to share ideas and strategies that are successful.
- Maintain professional relationships with your colleagues and communicate regularly.
- Schedule times to visit other classrooms to observe and learn from experienced teachers.

Professional Associations

- Join professional organizations and benefit from reading their journals, attending their conferences and joining their teacher network.
- Two of the largest professional organizations are the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).
- In addition to NEA and AFT, there are a number of specialty educational organizations that you can join. These organizations are organized to support a particular content area, grade level or type of student. Joining one of these groups will give you the opportunity to interact with teachers who have similar interests.
- [http://www.ed.gov/about/contacts/gen/othersites/associations.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/contacts/gen/othersites/associations.html) - At this site, you will find links to a large number of educational organizations.

Professional-Development Activities

- Attend workshops, seminars or in-services to keep you up to date on the most recent educational research. Grow professionally through continuous learning.
- Maintain a portfolio, which highlights your accomplishments in the classroom. Include student work, photographs, videotapes of your teaching, notes from parents and students, successful unit and lesson plans and lists of professional development activities you have attended.
- Consider applying for National Board Certification granted by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.