

Professional development is critical to implementation. Sessions are designed to simultaneously develop science content knowledge, pedagogy, and technology skills through presentation of theory, modeling, low-risk practice with feedback and collaborative dialogue. Our highly trained professional development specialists optimize the technology available in your classrooms. In addition, multiple delivery models provide the flexibility to meet the scheduling needs of school partners.

Techbook Professional Development In-Person Course Descriptions

Leading the Digital Conversion

A digital conversion is an exciting undertaking for both students and staff, however, it not without its challenges. The ripple effect of a DE Techbook adoption may surface questions regarding equipment, bandwidth, instructional planning, assessment, and instruction. This session offers a proactive approach to managing and leading the digital conversion.

Getting Started with Techbook

Immerses educators in effective instructional strategies for using digital content in science. Participants will learn how to use the 5E model of science instruction to promote deeper levels of science understanding.

Maximizing Student Engagement with DE Techbook

Uncovering the power and potential of the Techbook Student Center. Participants will learn how to promote and differentiate student learning through the use of Discovery Education tools such as Writing Prompt, Assignment Builder and Assessment Manager.

Centers-Based Teaching & Learning in a DE Techbook Classroom

Participants will be immersed in a Discovery Education Science Techbook experience. Using a center-based approach, participants will experience the 5Es of a model lesson by actually moving through a variety of stations designed to build student content knowledge. Directions, management, resources and planning techniques for centers are shared. Participants will then create their own centers using a model lesson and planning template guided by a Discovery Education Science Techbook Professional Development Specialist.

Assessment and Techbook

Discovery Education Science Techbook includes a robust assessment management tool designed to help teachers create custom, standards-based, concept-based assessments. Teachers can assign concept-aligned practice items to one student, a group of students or an entire class. Teachers can also review class assessment results on one or multiple assessments to look for patterns in the data. Teachers can assign an assessment with items pre-selected from all the concepts within a unit they are teaching. Reporting features allow teachers to view assessment results for an individual student on a single or multiple assessments and assign recommended remediation resources. During this full day session, participants will learn to develop formative and summative assessments using the 5E model. Participants will also learn to use the assessment management tool to its fullest potential to drive instruction and student achievement.

Science 2.0

Provide creative ways for students to Explain and be Evaluated on their learning. Upgrade lab reports and student projects utilizing basic web 2.0 tools such as QR codes, wallwisher, animoto, wikispaces, blogs and more. Participants will learn how to use basic collaboration tools to foster student critical thinking, engagement and science content knowledge acquisition using resources from Discovery Education Science Techbook. Sample projects and lesson examples will be shared. Time is provided for participants to create their own projects and lessons with support from a Discovery Education Professional Development Specialist.

Read, Write and Think Like a Scientist (2 day course)

When approached from a stance of inquiry, reading and writing develop literacy skills as well as content knowledge and scientific thinking. One serves the other. This reciprocal relationship is fostered with rich text, digital media, interactive writing and high leverage reading strategies leading to critical analysis skills applicable to written text, science labs and media. This session is aligned to Common Core standards.

Embedding Process Skills with DE Science Techbook

Scientific investigation is central to exemplary science instruction. Participants will develop instruction that builds students' scientific reasoning skills by utilizing the tools and resources in the model lesson. The skills and dispositions needed for scientific inquiry are emphasized. Participants will see how small changes in science instruction can allow students to grow their scientific reasoning and their research skills. Participants will leave the workshop with the skill set to continue to create stronger, inquiry-driven science instruction.

Digital Storytelling in Science

Digital storytelling is a creative way for students to demonstrate understanding of a scientific concept. Digital storytelling allows you and your students to combine text, images, audio, and video to tell stories to make scientific concepts STICK. Learn why and how to engage your students in higher levels of scientific thinking as they create movies to show their level of understanding about a science concept. Digital Stories can come in a variety of formats (poetry, riddles, documentaries) and can be produced in a variety of tools. Use your PC, MAC or even a mobile device to create simple to sophisticated digital stories to save to the cloud. We will explore ways to plan, manage, and assess your students to ensure digital science storytelling success.

Models of Delivery

In-Person Training: Discovery Education Professional Development in-person learning opportunities empower participants with a rich and relevant learning experience. These learning experiences can be provided through a multi-day academy, a six-hour course, a half-day session or flexible scheduling customized around the complexity of the school day. One Discovery Education Professional Development Specialist can support the learning needs of up to 20 educators at any given time over the course of a 6-hour day.

In person support allows the Discovery Education Professional Development team to leverage the power of interaction, collaboration and observation. The team also incorporates the partner's instructional environment to provide a relevant and engaging learning experience. Each experience is carefully designed to meet the identified needs of the group and can utilize direct instruction, guided exploration and model lessons to build a solid foundation of research based instructional strategies for each participant.

Conference-Style Days of Discovery: A Discovery Education Day of Discovery consists of an informative and inspiring, conference-style day of professional development. Designed for larger audiences, Days of Discovery can provide an opportunity for educators to gain a broad view of innovative teaching and learning. Participants can choose from a variety of professional learning topics or focus on a specific content area.

Days of Discovery are designed to be flexible as well as dynamic. Our educational partners can choose to begin the day with an engaging keynote or dive right into conference sessions. A conference style event allows participants to design a day of learning that could be broad in scope, celebratory in nature, and interactive while still focusing on key educational goals.

Webinars: Webinars or web conferencing provide an online forum for real time professional learning. Using high quality video and integrated voice conferencing, webinars offer both auditory and visual interactive experiences for all participants. Accessible from multiple locations, webinars could be organized for a single attendee, small groups of educators, or large audiences. Discovery Education webinars enable participants to learn specific processes, collaborate, consult or receive continuous support to enhance professional learning.

Classroom Demonstrations: During Classroom Demonstrations a Discovery Education Professional Development Specialist spends the day in up to six classrooms delivering media enriched lessons and activities while teachers observe the Specialist using high yield instructional strategies. After the demonstration, teachers and the Specialist briefly discuss the lesson and implications for future lesson design and delivery.

Instructional Support: Instructional Support is just in time, job-embedded support for teachers. Participants work directly with a Discovery Education Professional Development Specialist to apply knowledge and skills learned during whole group learning sessions. Instructional Support is a natural follow up to full-day, in-person learning sessions designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice, reduce implementation barriers, increase fidelity and reinforce efforts.

Instructional Support can be customized to meet the goals and needs of the teacher, students, and/or school. Typically, a DEPD Specialist can support four to five educators per day. It is recommended an educator participate in three or more follow up sessions over a six-month term for maximum results.

Model Lessons: Model Lessons are a job embedded approach to professional learning which include four phases: planning, execution, reflection and application for up to ten participants. Educators begin by participating in the discussion of the lesson planning process during a pre-conference. Then participants will observe an engaging lesson that includes high yield instructional strategies, current core curriculum, and digital media delivered to a classroom of students. During the post-conference, participants will reflect on the experience and share feedback on effective instructional practices, tools, and student interactions. Following the model lesson, educators will participate in a hands-on workshop that will focus on the application of high yield instructional strategies and the use of digital media to increase student engagement. Model lessons are not available with initial license purchase.