

AMISA

American International Schools in the Americas

Professional Learning Plan

UPDATED 2021
WWW.AMISA.US



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AT AMISA

Professional Learning at AMISA is the result of an intentional combination of a set of robust Professional Learning Strands, a multi-faceted Professional Learning Structure, and consistent Feedback Loops that work together to create and provide meaningful learning opportunities for adult learners.

Our Professional Learning Strands address a wide array of themes within the three core areas of *Visionary Leadership*, *Progressive Learning*, and *Vibrant Communities*. Each strand has a unique set of sub-stands that narrow the focus for learning.

Our Professional Learning Structure contains three main areas that provide unique learning opportunities for the region based on themes driven by our learning strands.

Our Feedback Loops include a variety of formats which provide important information used to modify and adjust learning to best meet the needs of learners in the region.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING STRANDS

In 2019, the AMISA Professional Development Committee (PDC) met in Panama City, Panama to design a set of professional learning strands and sub-strands to guide professional learning opportunities throughout the region. The team spent two days reviewing the mission, vision, and core values of the organization and used that information as the foundation to develop AMISA's three main Professional Learning Strands: *Visionary Leadership*, *Progressive Learning*, and *Vibrant Communities*. These strands guide organizational professional learning opportunities in the region and allow schools to align institutional strategic learning plans to the opportunities provided by AMISA. The Professional Learning Strands and sub-strands cover a variety of topics and themes within each of the three main areas.



VISIONARY LEADERSHIP (VL)

Visionary Leadership sees potential, leads learning, acts with integrity, and creates conditions to drive growth.



PROGRESSIVE LEARNING (PL)

Progressive Learning embraces innovative practices that inspire all students and adults in the school community.



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES (VC)

Vibrant Communities nurture inclusive environments, cultivate safe, healthy relationships, and promote global competence.

AMISA LEARNING STRANDS & SUB-STRANDS

AMISA Professional Learning Strands and Sub-Strands are designed to give participants purposeful and personalized learning opportunities based on interest and need.

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Vibrant Communities nurture inclusive environments, cultivate safe, healthy relationships, and promote global competence.

LEADING CHANGE (LC)

Leading Change focuses on developing, leveraging, and harnessing the necessary components required to drive organizational change within an educational context.

DESIGNING LEARNING (DL)

Designing Learning focuses on developing pedagogical best practices to create and design meaningful learning experiences that are student-centered, engaging, innovative, and curriculum-driven.

PROMOTING GLOBAL COMPETENCE (PGC)

Promoting Global Competence focuses on empowering students with the skill-sets, values, and behaviors to become positive agents of change in order to thrive in a diverse, interconnected world.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP PRACTICE (ELP)

Effective Leadership Practice focuses on the strategic elements of impactful and visionary leadership to inspire shared vision, strengthen relationships, and consistently innovate and improve.

FACILITATING LEARNING (FL)

Facilitating Learning focuses on creating and establishing environments that promote high-quality student learning, including relevant instructional and classroom management practices.

CULTIVATING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING & WELLNESS (SEL)

Cultivating Social Emotional Learning & Wellness focuses on the many approaches, strategies, and mindsets that students, teachers and school leaders can use to build a school community that focuses on wellness.

LEADERSHIP FOR EQUITY (LE)

Leadership for Equity focuses on advancing school culture through the actions, strategies, and mindsets leaders employ to implement and reflect upon systems, policies, and practices that ensure responsiveness and create a transformative learning experience for all stakeholders in their communities.

ASSESSING & REPORTING LEARNING (ARL)

Assessing & Reporting Learning focuses on varied techniques and practices to assess of, for and as learning; including feedback and reflective processes and communicating results.

ENSURING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS (ESE)

Ensuring Safe Environments focuses on creating structures and support systems in which all school stakeholders are accountable in the design, implementation, and shared values of providing a safe school environment.

LEADERSHIP FOR AN ETHICAL CULTURE (LEC)

Leadership for an Ethical Culture focuses on the responsibilities of educational organizations and leaders to build and cultivate school environments characterized by ethical practices, including integrity, respect, fairness, and accountability.

PARTNERING FOR LEARNING (PL)

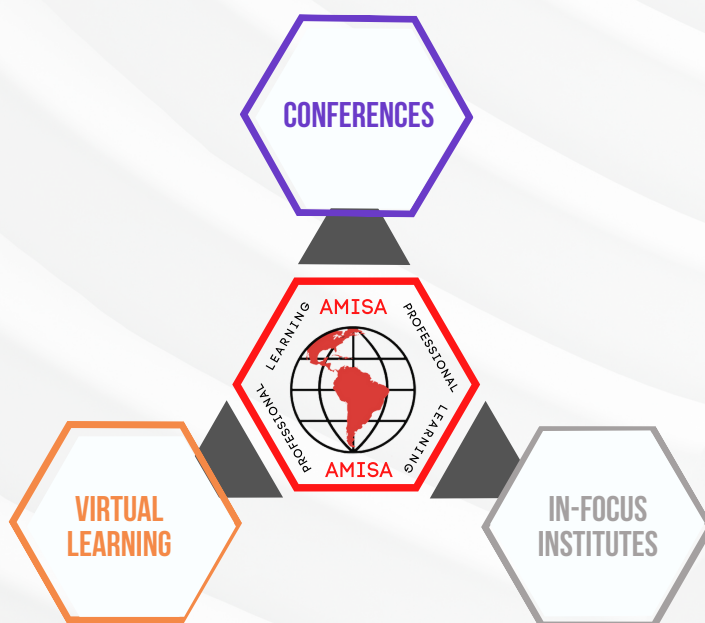
Partnering for Learning focuses on developing effective relationships between all school stakeholders and engaging in relevant practices that directly impact student and staff learning.

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE PRACTICES (FIP)

Fostering Inclusive Practices focuses on how teachers, staff, and school leaders can build a school community where all students have opportunities to succeed within an inclusive, supportive environment.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING STRUCTURE

Our Professional Learning Structure is composed of the main areas that work together to provide meaningful learning opportunities to all schools in the region. All of our learning takes place within one of these areas: Conferences, In-focus Institutes, and Virtual Learning.



CONFERENCES

Provide consistent in-person professional learning opportunities and networking each year for specific audiences from the region. Conferences are multi-day learning events.

IN-FOCUS INSTITUTES

Provide rotating and varied professional learning opportunities and networking each year at member schools throughout the region around a specific topic or theme.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Provides professional learning opportunities outside the traditional in-person setting. Virtual learning opportunities are open to member and non-member schools around a variety of topics and themes.

CONFERENCES

School Operations Conference

A multi-day learning experience that is designed to provide operations personnel with targeted learning and networking opportunities.

Audience is targeted toward school operations personnel in the areas of business, marketing and communications, admissions, operations, advancement, etc.

Governance Conference

A multi-day learning experience that is designed to provide school governance targeted learning and networking opportunities. Audience is targeted toward school governing board members and school directors/heads of school.

Heads' Retreat

A day-long experience designed to provide school directors/heads of school with specific learning and networking opportunities. Reserved exclusively for directors/heads of school who are AMISA members.

Educators' Conference

A multi-day learning experience hosted at a regional member school that provides educators with a variety of learning experiences and networking opportunities within the AMISA Learning Strands. Audience is targeted toward all educators and school leaders.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE DATES

Dates and locations may be subject to change. The AMISA website will always publish the most current information.

School Operations Conference

2021 | Virtual

2022 | Miami, FL

2023 | Miami, FL

Governance Conference

2021 | Miami, FL

2022 | Miami, FL

2023 | Miami, FL

Heads' Retreat

2022 | Miami, FL

2023 | Miami, FL

Educators' Conference

2022 | São Paulo, SP - Brazil

2023 | Guatemala City, Guatemala

2024 | TBA

IN-FOCUS INSTITUTES

In-Focus Institutes are sponsored by member schools throughout the region with learning centered around a specific topic(s) or theme(s). Institutes are either supported or co-sponsored by AMISA. Participation must be extended to other member schools in the region, and non-member schools can be invited to participate at the discretion of the host school. The following are characteristics of In-Focus Institutes:

- Organized in a variety of formats over the course of 1 to 3 days
- Led by international or regional consultant(s) and may include regional educators sharing learning experiences and opportunities
- Can include varied learning delivery settings, such as: workshops, courses, symposiums, leveled certifications, trainings, etc.
- May be delivered in a virtual, face-to-face, or blended format
- Include specific evidences of application of learning
- May culminate in a face-to-face experience at Educators' Conference
- May be sponsored by AMISA, a host school, an AMISA partner, or a combination of the above
- Member schools can apply for sponsorship support from AMISA



DEEPER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Workshops & Workshop Series

Workshops and Workshop Series are interactive learning experiences that are offered at short intervals (*ie. 60 minute, 90 minute, etc.*) individually, or as part of a series, that are focused on a specific topic or theme. Workshops and Workshop Series may be offered in both synchronous and asynchronous learning environments.

Trainings

Trainings are interactive multi-day learning experiences that are offered around a specific topic or theme (*ie. Child Protection Level 1*) and conclude with participants earning a certificate of completion. Trainings are offered by content experts and may take place in synchronous and asynchronous formats.

Partner Webinars

Partner Webinars are learning opportunities that are offered at short intervals (*ie. 60 minute, 90 minute, etc.*) individually, or as part of a series, that are focused on a specific topic or theme. Learning is facilitated by a representative from the partner organization.

Courses

Courses are learning experiences that take place over the course of 6-12 weeks and can cover a variety of topics within a main area of focus. Learning is facilitated by a subject matter expert and may be offered in synchronous and asynchronous formats. Continuing Education Credit may be available for select courses.

Year-long Experiences

Year-long Learning Experiences are designed to engage school-based learning teams in ongoing, cohort-style learning throughout the course of an academic year. These opportunities provide leveled-up learning on a focused topic or theme within a specific Professional Learning Strand, and conclude with a tangible product based on the learning outcomes. Learning includes both synchronous and asynchronous formats and is facilitated by a consultant, or team of consultants. Opportunities typically begin in September and conclude in May or early June.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FEEDBACK LOOP

Our professional learning Feedback Loop allows us to gain valuable information and data from member schools in the region in order to guide the development and delivery of professional learning opportunities.

One of our main sources of feedback is the Professional Development Committee (PDC). The PDC is composed of regional educators that meet several times each year to discuss professional learning needs, effective learning structures, future learning opportunities, and keeps the organization current with regional needs and trends.

Other sources in the Feedback Loop include frequent post-learning feedback evaluations, and a bi-annual Professional Learning Needs Assessment.

