

Professional Development for Charter School Transition to State Standards

Case Study



The Client

Florida Department of Education (FL DOE)

The Project

- Design and delivery of professional development modules for charter school transition to state standards
- Subsequent development of e-learning courses

The Opportunity

In collaboration with FL DOE, Public Consulting Group (PCG) provided educators from Florida's 570+ charter schools with the training and resources they needed to transition to full implementation of the new college and career ready standards in mathematics, English language arts, and content literacy in grades K-12.

The PCG Approach

In the first phase of this project, PCG developed and delivered 28 professional development modules for teacher leaders, administrators, leadership teams, and board members throughout the state of Florida.

The goal of this project was to develop participants' capacity to transition to a standards-based curriculum and effectively use a local instructional improvement system (LIIS) in their schools and districts. To that end, PCG developed and delivered customized training modules, tools, and approaches focused on building deeper understanding of the new standards and using data tools to assess students' progress in achieving the standards. Participants learned how to incorporate the use of data into lesson development focused on standards-based units and lessons in mathematics, English language arts, and content literacy. These modules were conducted onsite in each region of the state, and all materials were made available electronically for continuing use by Florida educators.

In 2014, the Florida Department of Education extended its contract with PCG to re-design the professional learning as e-learning modules. PCG developed 28 e-learning courses, expanding and enhancing the information from the original modules.

This coursework was designed as a blended learning opportunity whereby schools take the online course and receive customized coaching and follow-up at their school site for each completed course. The coursework has been revamped to serve both charter and now non-charter K-12 schools throughout Florida. PCG consultants are working in schools with leadership teams and teachers to help support a smooth transition to the rigor and challenges of these standards.

The Result

Key PCG deliverables include

- Administration of online surveys to K-12 charter school teachers and administrators to assess content knowledge and evidence of implementation of practices aligning with the Florida Standards. The results of these surveys were used to develop professional development materials tailored to the needs of these teachers and administrators.
- Development of 28 face-to-face plus 28 e-learning modules based on the Florida Standards
- Development of Self-Assessment Readiness Tool, Gap Analysis System, and Implementation Toolkit
- Creation of website for downloadable resources including participant guides, PowerPoint presentations, facilitator guides, and handouts
- Delivery of face-to-face workshops in five regions of the state of Florida to over 4,000 charter school staff and administrators. Based on session evaluations, 96 percent of participants rated the professional development activities as Useful, Very Useful, or Extremely Useful to them in their role.