

Why Summer Is the Perfect Time for ART TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Summer professional development offers a unique opportunity for growth, learning, and rejuvenation. By tackling common barriers, art teachers can truly make the most of these valuable opportunities. With some careful planning and a bit of creativity, summer PD can transform your teaching practice and reignite your passion for art education. Embrace the chance to invest in yourself and your students—you'll be glad you did.

BENEFITS OF SUMMER PD:

- 1. Nurturing Your Own Creative Practice:** Nurturing studio practice strengthens teaching practice, helps educators relate to students' experience.
- 2. Personalized Learning:** Focus on areas where you want to grow or explore new methods that can improve the effectiveness of your teaching.
- 3. Flexible Scheduling:** Many organizations, like Davis, provide online courses that you can complete at your own pace.
- 4. Enhanced Collaboration:** Sharing ideas with peers can lead to new insights and inspire fresh approaches to teaching.
- 5. Preparation for the New School Year:** This time allows you to refine skills and integrate new knowledge into your lesson plans, so you'll feel ready to start the new year with a clear vision.
- 6. Rejuvenation:** Many organizations offer "intensives" that are weekends, or weeklong opportunities to dive deeply into your own creative practice or professional learning. Summer PD is a great chance to reignite that passion and bring fresh ideas to your classroom.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO SUMMER PD:

- 1. Budget Constraints**
 - **Seek Out Low-Cost Opportunities:** Many organizations and museums offer free or affordable PD courses, webinars, and workshops.
 - **Apply for Grants and Scholarships:** Various educational foundations provide funding.
- 2. Time Management:**
 - **Create a Schedule:** Plan out specific times for PD activities.
 - **Choose Flexible PD Options:** Find online courses and workshops that meet your scheduling needs.
 - **Set Realistic Goals:** Focus on the most important areas of growth.
- 3. Access to Resources:**
 - **Utilize School Resources:** Inquire about using school facilities.
 - **Leverage Community Resources:** Public libraries and community centers often provide access to resources.
- 4. Motivation and Engagement**
 - **Collaborate with Peers:** Form professional learning communities (PLCs).
 - Choose something fun!
 - Choose engaging and relevant topics.
 - Set personal challenges.
 - Reward yourself.
- 5. Lack of Institutional Support**
 - **Explain Connections:** Link the need for content specific PD to district initiatives, standards, curriculum development, and student achievement.
 - **Communicate the Benefits:** Share research and evidence on the positive impact of PD.
 - **Showcase Success Stories:** Provide examples of successful PD initiatives and their outcomes.
 - **Build a Case for Collaboration:** Propose PD initiatives that involve multiple teachers or departments.

Read the full blog post at DavisArt.com/SummerPD.