

**TAKING ACTION**

*Directions: Form an “Action Team” of parents and teachers to investigate attitudes about the benefits of involving teachers in sustained inquiry and school improvement initiatives as part of their regular schedule.*

**TASK ONE: SURVEY PARENTS AND SCHEDULE A FORUM**

- Create a survey to determine parent beliefs about the benefits of allocating noninstructional time for teacher learning, collaboration, and problem solving.
- Distribute the survey to interested parents and involved community members.
- Tabulate results and create a plan to build support for job-embedded professional development programs to include the following:
- Write and publish a handout/brochure on the topic that:
  1. Describes the rationale for allocating time for the professional development of teachers.
  2. Identifies existing forms of professional development presently sanctioned for use by schools in the district.
  3. Cites research that links teacher professional development to improvements in student learning and organizational improvement in the school.
  4. Invites parents to participate in a community forum on the subject.
- At the forum, briefly discuss results of the survey and implications for future action.
- Invite interested teachers to speak about innovations in classroom teaching that require coordination and planning before they can be implemented.
- End the meeting with a vision statement about the school’s goals for future development.

**TASK TWO: REORGANIZING TIME**

Review the existing literature to generate options for creating time and a relevant framework for professional development activities.

Compile a summary of this information and submit your report for consideration by the faculty.

*(The Time Dilemma in School Restructuring by Gary Watts and Shari Castle is an excellent source; see also the National Staff Development Council and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development websites for relevant publications and products.)*

**TASK THREE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

Plan and implement at least one professional development initiative this school year.