

# Core Concepts for Standards Briefs

As we continue our conversation about the New Standards for Professional Learning, let's consider **core concepts**. Each of our new professional learning standards has four core concepts – *educator, effectiveness, results, and all students* embedded in the stem, or beginning of each of the standards. For example, the standard for Learning Communities is stated as “*Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students* occurs within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment. Let's look at each core concept's description\*:

**Educator** describes the members of the education workforce, those employed within schools and school systems and in other education agencies to provide direct or indirect services to students. Educators include both the professional and support staff who contribute to student learning.

**Effectiveness** refers to educators' capacity to meet performance expectations, implement evidence-based practices, create and sustain conditions for effective learning, and increase student learning. Effectiveness is evident in performance as defined by role expectations and professional standards and by the results of an educator's work.

**Results** refers to all aspects of student growth and development. Academic success is the primary results area, and it is coupled with social and emotional learning in the overall development of students. Academic, social and emotional development work together to ensure student success. Student learning is assessed through multiple measures, both formative and summative, that provide evidence that students are succeeding in meeting the expected curriculum outcomes and development indicators. These measures include, but are not limited to, daily classroom assessment such as student work samples and performances; educator and parent observations; student self-assessments; periodic common or benchmark assessments, portfolios of work, projects or performances; and standardized assessments.

**All Students** signifies that educators' professional responsibility and professional learning are driven by the belief that education for all students, not just some, is fundamental to the well-being of a global society. Without equitable opportunities and universal high expectations for all students societal, political, and economic infrastructure suffer. The increased awareness and use of these core concepts enable educators to focus on both educator practices and students results.

I encourage you to visit the [Learning Forward Virginia website](#) to find more information about professional learning. “*Increasing the effectiveness of professional learning is the leverage point with the greatest potential for strengthening and refining the day-to-day performance of educators.*” Let's make this the year that we experience quality learning in our schools and spread the “word” – **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING!**

*\*as stated in the New Standards for Professional Learning, p. 20, by Learning Forward*