



PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS SELF-DIRECTED STUDY GROUPS

What is a self-directed study group?

A self-directed study group is a group of people interested in collegial study and action. In schools, study groups can meet to study and support one another as they do the following:

- Design curriculum and instruction innovations.
- Integrate a school's practices and programs.
- Study the latest research on teaching and learning.
- Monitor the impact of new practices on students and staff .
- Analyze and target a school wide need.

Why use study groups?

Schools are said to get better when educators build a shared understanding of what good teaching and learning look like. To build a shared understanding, educators commit themselves to studying and learning from one another over time. Study groups provide a good structure for sharing and learning together.

PURPOSE OF THE SELF-DIRECTED PROJECT

The purpose of the Self-Directed Project is to allow teachers to maximize their professional growth while gaining professional development points (PDPs). Self-directed projects allow educators to explore a topic in-depth that is well connected to his/her personal learning goals. In addition, self-directed projects increase the instructional resources of the district through an end product that is available to colleagues.

GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF SELF-DIRECTED GROUP PROJECTS

Teachers who wish to pursue a Self-Directed Group Project:

1. will seek written approval from their principal and the Assistant Superintendent by completing the *Self-Directed Group Project Proposal Form*.
2. will either link the Self-Directed Group Project to their professional development goals or explain the importance of the topic.
3. will keep a copy of the signed *Self-Directed Group Project Proposal Form* and any product completed as evidence for Professional Development Points (remembering that 10 points are needed on a topic in order to count toward recertification).
4. will, when possible, connect the Self-Directed Group Project to the theme of the regularly scheduled programs, district / school initiatives, or school-wide need.

APPROVAL PROCESS

1. All of the above conditions should be met in a satisfactory manner.
2. Principals should return the approved *Self-Directed Group Project Form* to the teachers. (Principals may want to keep a file copy.)
3. Teachers should keep a copy of the *Self-Directed Group Project Form* in their Professional Development files.

Upon completion of the approved self-study, each teacher must send a copy of the *Project Reflection Sheet*, any end product completed, and a log of time committed to the project to the Assistant Superintendent (to serve as evidence for Professional Development Points).

❖ ***Principals may require the participants to present their final project at a faculty/grade level meeting.***



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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – SCHOOL YEAR _____
SELF-DIRECTED GROUP PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

****Please Note:*** *Leading teacher involved in this project must submit this form. Also, Professional Development Points (PDPs) will not be issued until participants satisfactorily complete all components of Self-Directed Study Group Guidelines.*

Teacher completing form: _____

Participants (list all):

Name / Grade Level-Subject Area / School

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What is your learning goal?

To what district, building, department, or individual goal is your project connected? How does your project further this goal?

What activities will you engage in to meet your learning goal?



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How do you expect the project to impact student learning?

What will the end product be?

What is your anticipated timeline? How many hours do you anticipate will be needed to study this topic?

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved	_____	_____
		Principal's Signature	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved	_____	_____
		Asst. Supt.'s Signature	Date