

TIPS FOR GETTING APPROVAL TO ATTEND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

1. Reference The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers



Every teacher should be able to provide evidence of meeting the standards every year, so requests for time out of the classroom might be usefully framed using The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

A practicing teacher is required to

- ‘know your subject and how to teach it’ (Standard 2),
- ‘engage in professional learning’ (Standard 6)
- specifically ‘participate in professional and community networks and forums to broaden knowledge and improve practice’ (Standard 7.4).

Standard 6 about professional learning is also quite specific about the need for the teacher to design their own professional learning plan. And the Department of Education’s employment agreement with state school teachers also supports this.

2. Check The DET 2017 Enterprise Bargaining Agreement – Teachers



Professional Practice Days

(12) (a) From the commencement of the 2018 school year each teacher is entitled to one day per term (four days per year) release from their scheduled duties, including teaching, to focus on the improved delivery of high quality teaching and learning. These days are in addition to existing pupil free days and pro-rata for a teacher employed part-time.

*(b) The work undertaken on these days will be consistent with Departmental and school priorities and selected from the following areas: **planning, preparation, assessment of student learning, collaboration, curriculum development, relevant professional development and peer observation including feedback and reflection.***

(c) The timing and focus of each day for each teacher will be nominated by the teacher and be agreed in consultation with the principal.

(d) Where the timing and/or focus are not agreed the timing will be determined by the principal and the focus of the day will be determined by the teacher and will be consistent with the focus areas set out in sub-clause 12(b).

(e) This sub-clause (12) will cease to operate or have any effect from 18 April 2021.

3. If you are employed in the Catholic System:



The Catholic system is still working on a new agreement, they have issued 'EBA negotiations – Interim arrangements 2017 and 2018' to cover aspects of the agreement that can't wait.

Workload

In 2018, teachers to receive 20 hours (pro rata for part time staff) release from scheduled class time to focus on professional practice.

[From the Joint Statement, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Limited (CECV) and Independent Education Union Victoria Tasmania (IEU), 16 August 2017]

4. Demonstrate that there will be Positive Outcomes for learning and the introduction of innovative programs.



For example:

- This session will offer support for implementing the new VCE PD&T and VCE Systems Engineering study designs, *or*
- This workshop provides the most up-to-date information from the DET on OH&S

Teachers will explore Design & Technologies as an effective means to deliver STEM teaching, project-based learning and cross curricular programs

5. Stress that Design & Technologies is a very effective means to deliver STEM teaching, project-based learning and cross curricular programs.



Use the DATTA Vic [STEM Letter for Principals](#) on the DATTA Vic website to back this up.

6. Design & Technologies is Mandatory, not an elective, for Every Student according to the Minister for Education and VCAA.