

## TxVSN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

**TxVSN recommends that all teachers who are interested in teaching online for the network complete the required professional development for quality online teaching from one of the professional development providers listed on the TxVSN website at [www.txvsn.org](http://www.txvsn.org). TxVSN Provider Districts are responsible for requesting and maintaining documentation of completion of TxVSN-approved professional development from potential online teachers.**

It is the responsibility of each online teacher to obtain documentation of completion from the provider of TxVSN-approved professional development. The network highly recommends that teachers maintain a copy of the completed professional development for their own records.

### **ADDITIONAL TxVSN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS**

The following additional options are available. Provider Districts that employ online teachers who meet one of the following options must ensure that the teachers' professional development, teaching experience, and/or courses taken toward the completion of a graduate degree in online or distance learning are sufficient to demonstrate mastery of the iNACOL Standards for Quality Online Teaching. Provider Districts will be required to affirm online teachers' preparedness to teach public school age students in a highly interactive online classroom when contracting with the network to deliver courses.

**Teachers who meet one or more of the following options are also eligible to teach for the network:**

**1. Teachers who completed professional development through a TxVSN-approved professional development provider prior to the 2008 TxVSN RFQ approval process**

The TxVSN professional development provider must verify that the professional development was the same as the required professional development approved during the RFQ process, which means that it met the iNACOL standards at the time it was delivered. The professional development must not have been taken prior to September 1, 2006, which is when the Southern Regional Education Board first published the standards, later endorsed by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL).

**2. Teachers who have two or more years experience teaching online academic courses for public school age students and/or graduate degrees in online or distance learning**

Teachers who have two or more years of experience teaching online academic courses for public school age students and/or a graduate degree in online or distance learning do not have to take the TxVSN-approved professional development prior to teaching for the TxVSN.

NOTE: Teachers should be aware that individual TxVSN Provider Districts may have additional policies and requirements when hiring online teachers.

All teachers must have continuing professional development every three years to continue to meet the requirements to teach via TxVSN. See "TxVSN Professional Development Renewal Requirement" below.

**3. Teachers who have had prior professional development for teaching online from providers other than those approved by TxVSN**

An RFQ has been released which asks for additional providers of professional development which enables teachers to meet the iNACOL standards. This is the basic course required of teachers before teaching for the network. A variety of professional development providers, including existing Texas online schools and programs that have professional development for their own online

teachers, will be encouraged to submit their course(s) or programs for review during the RFQ process.

If the submitted professional development is approved, teachers who previously took this same professional development may be eligible, per the requirements in #1 shown above, for verification as having completed the TxVSN-approved professional development.

### **TxVSN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RENEWAL REQUIREMENT**

**All TxVSN teachers are required to renew their TxVSN professional development every three years. Renewal requirements can be met through the following professional development:**

A Request For Qualifications (RFQ) has been released which requests professional development that leverages the prior experience and knowledge of teachers in the field. This RFQ is seeking professional development specifically targeting teachers with previous experience teaching academic online courses to public school age students or those teachers who have advanced degrees in online or distance learning. Such professional development should include new technologies and strategies for teaching online. It is anticipated that this professional development may be self-paced, of shorter duration, and more individualized than the currently available TxVSN-approved professional development.

RFQ window will open and close periodically. Email: [txvsncentral@txvsn.org](mailto:txvsncentral@txvsn.org) for information.