Adobe® Connect™ 8 for K–12 staff development

Enhance staff development across the school or district by providing instantly accessible online training, classes, and webinars

Research shows that improving teacher knowledge and enhancing teaching skills are essential components of raising student performance. The evidence is overwhelmingly accepted, but while acknowledging the importance of staff development, many K–12 administrators also point out the substantial obstacles to implementation, which can include limited budgets, a lack of available time, and large geographic school districts. The traditional staff development model—where teachers gather in one location shortly before the start of a new school year—no longer is viable.

Adobe, which understands the challenges K–12 schools and districts must overcome, strives to provide the most effective and innovative staff development solutions—at prices districts of all sizes can afford. At the core of those solutions is new Adobe® Connect™ 8 software, the ideal tool for enhancing staff development across the school or district.

The components of cost-effective Adobe staff development solutions

Designed to work within existing Learning Management Systems, Adobe staff development solutions enable educators and trainers to deliver engaging, media-rich experiences—live and on-demand—to widely dispersed learners. The instant online access amounts to more time in the classroom and less time and money spent on travel to off-site training locations. Components include:

Adobe Connect 8—The cornerstone of Adobe staff development solutions, this software makes it easy for educators to lead engaging virtual classes, provide self-paced courses, and conduct hands-on online training. Trainers and teachers can quickly design compelling curriculum with templates and a library of content, control learner participation, and track learner progress.

Powerful new features include a simpler and more user-friendly eLearning environment; enhanced audio/video integration for richer training and learning experiences; a new optional desktop client for improved online and offline access; and an enhanced collaboration software development kit (SDK) for extensibility.

Adobe Presenter 7—Districts and schools can simplify and accelerate the creation, delivery, and sharing of rich media presentations and training courses. With just a few clicks in PowerPoint, educators can transform drab presentations into engaging Adobe Flash® based multimedia experiences.

Adobe Captivate® 5—This software enables instructional designers and educators to rapidly create powerful and engaging simulations, software demonstrations, and scenario-based training without programming knowledge or multimedia skills.

Adobe Acrobat® X Pro—Educators can use the PDF Portfolio feature to distribute a multitude of media-rich training material in a single, customized package to teachers throughout the district. With convenient commenting tools and other collaborative features, new Acrobat X Pro (and its PDF workflow) also gives educators an ideal means of exchanging ideas while creating training material.

"We found it's just much more efficient for us to deliver training material in an on-demand environment than it is to have to bring people together into a centralized location to do training."

Kim Cavanaugh,
Tech Program Coordinator, Palm Beach County School District

Online Staff Development Resource Center
Whether you want to create and distribute on-demand staff development content, deliver live staff development sessions, or deliver a hybrid of both models, you'll find help here:
www.adobe.com/education/resources/k12/resourcecenters/communication

"With Adobe Connect, we can bring teachers together from across the state and provide them with high-quality, virtual professional development sessions that are just as effective as in-person sessions. It's a convenient way for educators to access valuable training content and for schools to defray the costs of professional development."

Carolyn McCarthy,
Adobe Education Leader and Educational Technology Consultant,
Shiawassee Regional Education Service District

Interactive training, teaching, and learning experiences

Mindful of today's tight education budgets, Adobe places high emphasis on cost-effectiveness and ease-of-use when developing and updating staff development solutions. At the same time, Adobe realizes there must be a compelling, engaging nature to its solutions. The premise is this: When staff development is fun and easy, students aren't the only ones who learn. Adobe Connect 8 addresses cost-effectiveness and ease-of-use—as well as the importance of making training fun and easy.

Adobe Connect 8 empowers educators to quickly design training and teaching material that leverages existing content, and to quickly create interactive simulations. The software enables trainers to concentrate on creating and delivering highly effective content—without having to worry about intricate and burdensome code. Trainers can provide more specialized attention by using "breakout rooms," which enable them to give multiple participants different instruction simultaneously, and then bring everyone back together in an instant.

The ease-of-use also extends to trainees and learners. A new, simplified interface helps users more easily discover all available functions and features through better organization and prominent display of the most important and frequently used controls and capabilities. The burden of technology is removed, allowing participants to relax, learn, and have fun.

Improved accessibility from a multitude of environments and systems

The aforementioned attributes could be negated if anyone involved—trainers or learners—were to encounter barriers to participation. With Adobe Connect 8, access is easier and more convenient than ever. Educators can join and manage Adobe Connect 8 training sessions, classes, and meetings directly from most LMS environments. Likewise, they can allow full participation by trainees or learners in those LMS environments.

Additionally, trainers, teachers, and learners can navigate the Adobe Connect 8 interface completely via keyboard. Several "hot keys" provide direct access to important functions and capabilities. Educators also can enable trainees or colleagues to join online meetings or students to view/review lessons or lectures—at any time, from a range of different devices. Adobe Connect 8 ensures instant, easy access to eLearning courses, webinars, and collaborative online meetings.

Implementing Adobe staff development solutions in your school or district

With the right online staff development solution, your school or district can save time and money—while training more enthusiastic, better prepared teachers. Adobe staff development solutions, anchored by new Adobe Connect 8 software, can give your school or district just what it needs, regardless of size. There's no better time than now to start delivering rich communications that let teachers spend more time in the classroom and less time and money traveling between schools and going to other off-site locations.