

Transfer to the Classroom: How will you know if it is happening?

Directions: Individually, review the scenario below and consider the questions that follow. Discuss with the group at your table.

You've observed the professional development offered by your program and seen that: (1) teachers are intellectually engaged with important science and mathematics content that is connected to their teaching assignments; and (2) teachers have opportunities to consider the applications of what they are learning in the professional development, including how to ensure access for all students.

The teachers report that they have substantially increased their understanding, and you've seen evidence of those gains on both tests of teacher content knowledge and on assessments embedded in the professional development, including gains in their ability to analyze student work and identify what individual students do and don't understand.

Your professional development team is cautiously optimistic, but want to be sure that teachers are using what they learned in the PD to improve classroom practice. Your team discusses the issue and comes up with the following possibilities for getting this information:

Option A: Let's ask the teachers about the changes they are making to their instruction and see if they are what we had hoped.

Option B: Let's observe some classes to see for ourselves.

Option C: Let's see if students of participating teachers did better on the state assessments; if so, we'll know that teachers are doing a better job in the classroom.

Discussion Questions: Which of the options would you choose? Why?