

ASCD Network Program

How to Start an ASCD Network

ASCD supports the development of networks within the Association to meet member needs compatible with ASCD's mission, beliefs, and goals. Networks may be short-term and flexible, forming and disbanding based on participants' needs. Networks link people in diverse ways and for diverse purposes, but effective educational networks have these characteristics in common:

- A feeling of shared purpose and commitment to the group
- Openness in sharing and discretion in using information
- A combination of professional and personal support
- Voluntary participation and equal treatment
- One or more members functioning as effective facilitators

Application

The groups wishing to become a network must file a proposal with ASCD. A completed proposal packet includes

- Completed proposal for an ASCD member-initiated network form.
- Completed budget information form.
- Names and addresses of at least 15 ASCD members who wish to participate in the proposed network.
- Professional resume of contact/network facilitator.

Planning for a Network

Networks can be initiated by any group of members with a common interest or concern that falls within the ASCD mission. Occasionally, staff may assist in stimulating interest in forming a network that supports ASCD's strategic goals. Most networks begin informally and do not incur costs until they move from an initial stage of planning and information sharing to providing additional member services, such as newsletters and other publications. Networks meeting ASCD criteria may apply for small grants to meet certain expenses associated with meeting member needs. Some networks dissolve over time as their original purpose is fulfilled; others become self-supporting and continue for longer periods.

Network proposals are reviewed and evaluated by ASCD staff. Networks may apply either for funded or non-funded sponsorship.

Criteria for Initial Sponsorship and Funding

- A purpose compatible with the mission of ASCD.
- Substantially different scope, activity, and purpose from existing ASCD networks.
- A group of 15 or more ASCD members committed to participating in the network.
- A designated contact person (network facilitator) who is a member of ASCD.
- Membership that is open to all.
- A commitment to respond to information requests from potential network members and others referred by ASCD and its affiliates.
- Submission of a completed proposal by the due date.
- Willingness to provide network ideas, expertise, and products to ASCD.

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Criteria for Continued Support

- Submission of an annual report to ASCD by the established deadline.
- Submission of an annual membership list with ASCD membership numbers.
- Adherence to ASCD network policies.
- Evidence that a majority of network members belong to ASCD.
- Communication with ASCD on a regular basis, including notice of updated facilitator contact information
- Submission of a copy of *each* network publication sent to ASCD Constituent Partnerships.
- Leadership of a network forum or session conducted at ASCD's Annual Conference.
- Representation at an annual network facilitators' meeting, usually held at ASCD's Annual Conference.

Benefits of ASCD Support

- Sponsorship of the network and permission granted to use ASCD's name, whether or not the network receives ASCD funds.
- Funding of some networks based on competitive proposals.
- Publication of network information on ASCD's Web site.
- Publication of the networks' activities in ASCD communication vehicles.
- Opportunity for each network to conduct a session at ASCD's Annual Conference.
- Funding of special projects upon application and approval.
- Opportunity to participate in an annual network facilitators' meeting, usually held at ASCD's Annual Conference.
- Opportunity for each network to create a Web site hosted by and using software provided by ASCD.

Activities Eligible for Funding from ASCD Funds

As stated Constituent Groups Protocols (517.1):

Networks may use annual support funds from the Association, when requested and awarded, to enhance and facilitate communication and participation among network members and potential members. Appropriate uses of these funds include such activities as publication and mailing of a newsletter, creation of an electronic presence on the Internet, and maintenance of a network Web site. The network may offer a reasonable stipend to individuals for services rendered to the network. The network may not pay the network facilitator a salary from the Association's funds. If a network ceases to function, is disbanded, or has its Association sponsorship withdrawn, it must return all remaining funds to the Association.