



STEM CPD Support Framework

Introduction

The STEM CPD Support Framework was designed in partnership between the Department of Education and Skills and its various Support Services. It aims to support the cross-sectoral design and delivery of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in STEM that is connected, continuous and coherent in terms of policy, practice and STEM learning. Through effective and meaningful STEM CPD, it is hoped that students will have a holistic experience of STEM education throughout their primary and post-primary education.

A vision for the STEM CPD Support Framework

To support the design and facilitation of STEM CPD within and across sectors, leading to improved STEM learner outcomes and experiences in primary and post-primary education. The Framework seeks to ensure that the principles underpinning STEM education and enumerated within the Framework, inform the design, quality assurance process and delivery of all STEM-related CPD events and other professional learning opportunities

Context and rationale

This Framework grew from the STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026 and is intended to support the design and facilitation of STEM CPD against the backdrop of varying policy and reform contexts. It will both harness and build upon a range of exciting CPD innovations already underway in Irish education, in both formal and informal settings. Its success will be measured through improved professional STEM learning experiences within and across sectors and improved learner outcomes for STEM learners.

Structure of the STEM CPD Support Framework – Pillars and the “Three Cs” of STEM CPD

The STEM CPD Support Framework is organised into four key pillars of STEM learning. These represent the ‘big ideas’ that capture the desired future state of learner outcomes for a well-educated STEM learner. These pillars should be underpinned by evidenced based principles for teacher professional development agreed within organisations using this STEM Framework. Taken together, the pillars and principles will support CPD providers in engaging with the 3 Cs of STEM CPD (Connected, Continuous, Coherent) as they design and facilitate STEM professional learning experiences.