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Preferred Professional Development

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As younger superintendents replace retirees, professional development needs have increased to meet new forms of accountability, teacher/principal evaluation and rigorous curriculum reform. In a survey of New York state superintendents, more than half expressed a preference for local, high-quality professional development workshops so they did not have to travel from their districts.

The superintendents also preferred professional development involving systemic change and best practices.

Compared to a 2009 survey, superintendents reported an increased workload with a greater focus on curriculum and instruction, evaluation, student achievement, legal issues and finance.

Notably, just 1.2 percent picked higher education course work as a preferred form of professional growth, even though the study found 24 percent of the superintendents statewide had at least some tuition benefits in their contracts.

SOURCE OF DATA: "SNAPSHOT OF THE SUPERINTENDENCY" (2012) PRODUCED BY THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS. ANALYSIS BY EDWARD FALE, ROBERT IKE AND MARILYN TERRANOVA, LEAD STUDY AUTHORS