

**Creating the Borderless Classroom**  
 Webcast: Wednesday, September 28, 12 p.m. PT [Register](#)

Username  Password  Login [Register](#) | [Lost Password?](#) Visit our other sites [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) Site Search



[Click here to visit the Online Resource Center](#)

[READ THE CURRENT ISSUE](#)  
[CLICK HERE >](#)

FCC opens access to social media sites for e-Rate users

Tweeting the future of student journalism

Meet six of the country's best STEM schools

Audit flags high dropout rate for online students

September 12th, 2011

[Email](#) [Print](#) [Tweet This!](#)

## Professional development offerings for the new school year

From staff reports

Read more by [eSchool News Staff](#)



The key to improving student achievement is to make sure teachers get the professional development they need to be successful.

Ed-tech tools are only as effective as the teachers who are using them—and the real key to improving [student achievement](#) is to make sure teachers get the professional development they need to be successful. With that in mind, here's a roundup of new and noteworthy staff development services for the new school year.

The Alabama-based data management company [STI](#) has launched a new face-to-face professional development offering. Called i21 Zone, the service is highly customized and focuses on the effective use of technology in instruction.

STI consultants will spend a few days within a school or district, observing classes and assessing needs based on the school's or district's current ed-tech inventory and usage. Then, they work with instructors to pass along strategies for improvement. This cycle of assess, teach, and observe typically takes about five to seven days in all, STI says, and is priced per day. The first i21 Zone customer is Alabama's Tuscaloosa County.