



# MSDE Online Professional Learning Opportunities

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will this course fulfill the requirements to renew my Maryland teaching certification?**

Participants who successfully complete an MSDE online PD course will earn CPD credit(s). Please contact your district's certification office to determine if you need to complete specific courses are required to renew your Maryland teaching certification. If a course qualifies for AU credits, it will be indicated in the course registration booklet.

### **How do I withdraw from courses? Will I receive a refund when I withdraw from a course?**

In order to withdraw from courses, you must email your request to [onlinepd.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:onlinepd.msde@maryland.gov). In addition, please notify your facilitator of your intent to withdraw. To receive a refund of the course fee, your withdrawal request must be emailed prior to, but no later than, 7 days from the course start date. The \$25 registration fee and the 3% bank processing fee are not refundable.

### **I am not currently a teacher in a Maryland public school. Can I still enroll in your online courses?**

We offer courses to currently employed Maryland teachers and retired educators first. As a course start date nears, we satisfy other enrollment requests. You may be added to the waitlist by emailing your request to [msdeblackboard.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:msdeblackboard.msde@maryland.gov). Please include your first and last name, the course name, and your email address.

### **Registration has closed. Can I still register for a course?**

No. Select courses are offered each fall, spring, and summer. Please check MSDE's eConnect Welcome Page for semester offerings.

### **How can I become an MSDE Online Course Facilitator?**

For information on becoming an MSDE Online Course Facilitator, please email [onlinepd.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:onlinepd.msde@maryland.gov).

### **Can I preview the course or syllabus before enrolling?**

No, the syllabus will be available to participants once the course begins.

### **How much work should I expect in an online course? How much time will it take?**

Online courses are very rigorous and will require you to dedicate between 6-10 hours of work each week, as well as log into the course at least 3 times a week.

### **If a course is full, can one more person be added?**

No.

### **Will I be required to login on specific days and times? Will I be required to attend a face-to-face meeting?**

MSDE online courses are asynchronous and do not require specific login dates or times or face-to-face meetings. However, some courses may include a required online meeting. Note that online discussions require responses during the week so that participants can respond to and learn from one another.

### Are we required to have specific materials for courses?

Any materials required will be listed in the course offerings booklet. In order to participate in MSDE online courses, you must have an active eConnect (formerly known as Blackboard) account. You must also have Internet access. [Please find a current list of technology requirements:](#)

| Browser                           | Supported Desktop* Browser Versions |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Chrome</a> **         | 36+                                 |
| <a href="#">Edge</a> **           | 20+                                 |
| <a href="#">Firefox</a>           | 31+                                 |
| <a href="#">Internet Explorer</a> | 11+ (Windows only)                  |
| <a href="#">Safari</a>            | 6+ (MacOS only)                     |

### Tested Devices and Operating Systems

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Operating Systems used in testing | Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10, MacOS 10.8, MacOS 10.9, MacOS 10.10, MacOS 10.11, Chrome OS |
| ChromeOS tested device            | Chromebook (Chrome browser; features requiring NPAPI plug-ins are not supported)              |

**\*\*NOTE:** Mobile devices, such as iPads, cellphones, etc., have not been fully tested. We currently do not have the mobile version of Blackboard, so please use a laptop to complete any work for courses at this time.

### What are the Thinkport courses in the course offerings booklet?

The Maryland Virtual Online Learning Opportunities (MVLO) works in partnership with MPT Thinkport to market online course offerings for Maryland teachers. MVLO and MPT Thinkport courses can be identified by logos.

### Am I required to have an eConnect (formerly known as Blackboard) account?

An eConnect account is required for registration and course participation. You may request an active eConnect account or retrieve your current account information by emailing [msdeblackboard.msde@maryland.gov](mailto:msdeblackboard.msde@maryland.gov).