

National Professional Development Center on Inclusion

Helping states achieve an integrated professional development system that supports high quality inclusion



All About The Landscape

Purpose:

The *Landscape* was designed to help state agency administrators who need information about what is happening in early childhood professional development activities across various sectors. The purpose of the *Landscape* is to gather information that will produce a descriptive landscape of professional development in early childhood in a state across multiple sectors.

The intended respondents are providers of continuing education (in-service) professional development—those who provide learning opportunities and support for practitioners (the learners) who already work directly with young children (birth to 8) and their families.

The information gathered by the *Landscape* can be used to describe who the learners are, what professional development content they receive, and how learners acquire core competencies and get support to apply what they learn in practice. In addition, the *Landscape* can be used to gather information about key contexts and supports for

professional development in a state, as well as background information about the professional development providers themselves.

Format:

The *Landscape* is an online Qualtrics survey that takes about 5-10 minutes to complete.

NPDCI provides:

- Invitation email
- Website with survey details
- Online survey
- Thank you/reminder emails
- Summary of survey results
- Original survey data, if requested
- Contact information for respondents who choose to provide such information (separated from other survey responses)

What states will need to do:

- Contact NPDCI at npdci@unc.edu
- Send the invitation email
- Send thank you/reminder emails

For more information...

See the website below, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the next page, and contact NPDCI at npdci@unc.edu if you would like additional information.

<http://npdci.fpg.unc.edu/resources/planning-and-facilitation-tools/the-landscape>

Landscape FAQ

1. Who should states invite to complete the *Landscape* survey?

States are encouraged to identify and invite respondents who provide professional development (PD) across a variety of sectors, such as child care, Head Start, early intervention, pre-K, and others. If a state already has a registry of PD providers, this might be a good list of potential respondents with which to start. If a state does not have a registry of PD providers, the *Landscape* can help the state begin to build one.

2. Is the *Landscape* appropriate for gathering information about in-service as well as pre-service PD efforts?

The *Landscape* is appropriate for use by respondents who provide continuing (in-service) PD (e.g., leading to child development credentials, continuing education credits), as well as individuals who provide ongoing support (e.g., coaching, consultation, technical assistance). The questions on this survey are less relevant or appropriate for describing pre-service PD. Other national surveys have focused on describing early childhood teacher education programs in Institutions of Higher Education. The National Prekindergarten Center has provided individual state reports on pre-service early childhood teacher preparation programs (see www.fpg.unc.edu/~npc/pages/state_reports.cfm).

3. Does the *Landscape* require PD providers to provide their names, social security numbers, or any other individually identifying information?

At the end of the survey, respondents may choose to provide their name and email address if they wish to be included in a database of PD providers in their state. This contact information will not be linked in any way to the responses provided on the survey, but will be used to develop a list of PD providers in their state. The *Landscape* does not ask for social security numbers, and does not require PD providers to provide contact information unless they choose to do so at the end of the survey.

4. When and how frequently should the *Landscape* be used?

In order to maximize the response rate, NPDCI encourages states to use the survey in the fall or spring rather than in the summer. NPDCI suggests using the survey once a year.

5. How can I get a copy of the questions on the *Landscape*?

Although the *Landscape* is completed online, you can find a list of the survey questions on the NPDCI website.

6. What is the process for inviting respondents to complete the survey?

NPDCI will work with states wishing to use the *Landscape* and will provide a state contact person with the email message to send to PD providers in the state inviting them to complete the survey. The email message will direct potential respondents to a webpage containing details about the survey and a link to the *Landscape* itself. NPDCI will want to know the number of people invited to complete the survey, but will not need their email addresses.

7. What steps will be taken to help ensure the validity of the survey results?

NPDCI will work with the state contact person developing the list of potential respondents to ensure that respondent characteristics closely match those of the intended PD providers. The methods used to administer the survey will help ensure an adequate response rate. Data will be summarized so that it may be disseminated to a broad audience.

8. What is the suggested citation for the *Landscape*?

Buyse, V., Hollingsworth, H., & West, T. (2010). *The Landscape: A statewide survey for providers of professional development in early childhood*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute, NPDCI.

NPDCI is a project of the FPG Child Development Institute at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs at the US Department of Education.

