We asked visitors to the NEA Today Facebook page to describe the professional development they wished for as new teachers. Here’s what they said!

Sample lesson plans from teachers at my school at the same grade level with specific information about materials needed, where to find them, along with three to four helpful hints for keeping students engaged.
—CAROLINE LUND

New teachers need some training on dealing with the serious emotional and mental health issues of students today. This goes along with the need for better classroom management training, but training really needs to focus on how to identify and help the kids who don’t know how to process and deal with their emotions.
—KATIE PORTER

How to differentiate instructions for all learners and how to include language (academic vocabulary) in your lessons. Many teachers assume students understand or have background knowledge, when they do not.
—LISIE FRANKLIN SMITH

Self-care equals better teaching. I needed professional development that focused on time management but also helped me realize it is OK to leave papers ungraded. The oxygen mask theory is truth.
—CAMIE LYSTRUP WALKER

What I really needed was training on specific requirements of the school: due dates for turning in grades for progress reports and report cards, where the Scantron machine was, where to get the Scantron sheets, and what paperwork was due when. We had plenty of ‘mentoring’ time, but it focused on classroom management and other things that I had just learned in college.
—KRISTY DUNN SPEER

How to find extra time to work with the most struggling of students to ensure understanding.
—KARI SMITH

Teachers sharing methods with teachers. We had a staff meeting for sharing assessment strategies and tools. It was the best because it wasn’t about the latest ‘high-leverage practices’ to come down the pike, but actual things people in our building use and they work!
—MATT LANG

How to really write an IEP, not just guidelines in conversation. Considering they are legal documents, I really wish I had real training.
—ROSIE ROSSITTO

Student-led conferences; how to involve the family and the community in your classroom.
—EMILY SERAFA MANSCHOT

Conferencing with parents, and managing difficult or hovering ones. I always made sure my students got to be part of parent conferences.
—MARILOU GRIEGO

Classroom management—and not just explanations and lectures, but being able to sit in on several different classrooms at the same grade level with proven teachers to get different insights into what might work in your classroom.
—KELLY WALKER HOGAN

Teaching kids relaxation techniques and anger management so they can cope with the stress that life will throw at them…to prevent mental illness depression and anxiety issues.
—SUE PIKE

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