

Rearview mirror and Windshield

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As you are preparing to conclude your year, your Professional Learning team offers some ideas for reflection and potential seeds to plant for future potential growth.

Reflecting on your year can be an important part of your transition to summer mode. When I was a classroom teacher, I invited students to complete a learning reflection during each reporting period and at the end of the year. It was a great tool to inform my practice moving forward from that point in the year. In *The Well Teacher* article in May, there are ideas for looking back as you close your year. Here are a few questions you can use to guide your reflection. Choose a few that resonate with you and feel free to share with colleagues.

- How has your teaching practice grown this year?
- What actions did you take that strongly aligned with your beliefs and values? (Steve Barkley)
- Finish the sentence — The students really responded to . . .
- How has your thinking grown or changed this school year?
- What is something you accomplished this school year you are proud of?
- What have been some of your challenges this year, and how were you able to overcome them?
- What did you learn from your students this year?
- What did you learn about yourself this year? (Steve Barkley)
- What do our students need us to learn?
- Which coaching practices were most/least useful?
- What is something that makes you feel hopeful right now?
- What are you most curious about in your practice?
- If you could remind yourself of one important thing at the beginning of next year, what would it be?

These questions were borrowed from <https://blog.esc13.net/25->

[end-of-year-reflection-questions-for-teachers/](#). Visit the site to see the rest of the questions and engage with them as you look back on your year.

Your PL team is excited to share some updates from our department for the upcoming year.

Moving forward, our grant opportunities—conference grants, travel fellowships, education research awards and full-time study grants are now open to **reserve members!** What does that mean? That means that substitutes who are reserve members are now eligible to apply to these opportunities. Look for a new and updated application this fall. Information will be shared in late summer.

This year's 41st annual Professional Associations Conference Day promises to be one of our best yet. Our member volunteers—full time teachers just like yourselves, continue to plan and organize meaningful and growth-oriented professional learning opportunities for all members. Be sure to check out the list of offerings in this edition of *The Teacher!* Follow us on social media @NSTUAppl for important information and updates about upcoming opportunities!

The NSTU will be hosting the annual CONTACT conference in 2026! Keep your eye out for expressions of interest to be one of our workshop facilitators that will be shared in the fall.

As you close this year, know you've done the best you could with the information, resources and support you've had. As you look forward to the next chapter, ensure you take forward what you've learned while looking in the rearview mirror for any important learnings that will help. As you gaze forward through your windshield, the possibilities are far-reaching. We wish you the energy and courage to embrace the opportunities that await.