



Frequently Asked Questions about Starting a UDL Study PLC

What is a UDL Study PLC?

A UDL Study PLC is a group of educators focused on learning about teaching practices aligned with Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Members will focus on low and high tech strategies that make their curriculum more accessible to ALL students. The focus revolves around continued reflection and revision of teacher practices and sharing of insights and materials with each other.

What are the first steps to starting a UDL Study PLC at my school?

Work with your school leadership to determine how a UDL study group can fit in with existing initiatives and expectations at your school. Recruit interested members to join you. **Review the resources on the HIAT website:** <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/hiat/udl/>

How should we structure the work of the UDL Leadership PLC?

One possibility is to structure your study group around HIAT's [Suggested list of PLC study topics](#). Online professional reflection is a powerful tool for collaborative learning. Consider having your group join HIAT's [UDL Online Discussion](#), which will present reflection topics for online discussion roughly every two weeks.

Make sure that you have built in time and a time line to meet and discuss. This could be face to face for about an hour a month, or you might conduct all reflections and sharing online. If online, then make sure you set expectations with the group about the timing and quantity of posts to the online discussion.

Who should be on the UDL Study PLC?

UDL is a practical framework for *all educators* to engage, challenge and support all learners. The UDL Study PLC will be most effective when it includes staff from a variety of subject and specialization areas. Consider including paraeducators, specialists, and staff development teachers. UDL is not just about technology and your group should not only include staff that is the most proficient with technology.

What resources are available to help schools implement a UDL study PLC?

Several years of UDL pilot projects have generated [resources now posted on the HIAT website](#) to guide the development and implementation of your UDL Leadership PLC throughout the year.

What is the role of the administration?

For any study group to be effective, the members need to know that their work is important and valued within the mission of the school. Consider how UDL fits with the school vision and how the study group members can contribute to that. They will need:

- Professional recognition for their work
- Time to collaborate together
- An avenue for sharing their insights for overall school improvement to administration

In addition, study group members will likely develop some valuable insights for how best to distribute and share technology resources throughout the building.