



Independent School District

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Virtual Course Hour Assignments

For the 2020-2021 school year, Alief pivoted from a primarily face-to-face training platform to a completely virtual platform. To ensure that district courses are designed based on best practices for online learning, every course creator was required to attend a Virtual Design and Delivery training.

A majority of the Alief professional development sessions have been assigned 3.5 hours and designed with that timeframe in mind. However, because of the virtual platform, the time required to complete the course will vary from person to person. In a face-to-face session, the instructor paces the instruction and work time. In a virtual environment, the rate at which an individual works and the amount of background knowledge they bring to the content impacts the amount of time required to complete the work.

Learning virtually requires:

- the individual to assign significant periods of time to truly think about and engage in the work, just as a face-to-face course would entail.
- more extensive independent reading and writing because lecture is not utilized as much in online learning.
- the individual to work alone to grapple with new learning. This can be frustrating and require more time to internalize the concepts being presented.
- more written responses which involves more thought and preparation than the discussions typically included in face-to-face instruction.