

# GIVING EDUCATORS A VOICE AND A CHOICE IN LEARNING

**Professional Learning Framework Alignments with Gale eBooks—** Discover how this Texas school district is inspiring teachers to think differently about lesson planning.

“The *Gale eBooks: Professional Learning* collection is a great tool to hand principals to give teachers individualized professional development. It brings a whole new meaning to differentiated instruction for our staff and truly allows teachers to have access to an amazing digital professional development library at their fingertips.”



**Chris Norton**  
Director of Innovation and Instruction  
Canyon Independent School District  
Canyon, TX

## BACKGROUND

The Canyon Independent School District (Canyon ISD) serves two communities: Canyon and Amarillo, Texas. Within the 732-square-mile district, there are 15 campuses with a total population of approximately 11,000 students. The community is well known for its commitment to children and education. Many new families move into the area because of the reputation of the schools and the quality of life it offers.

Chris Norton has worked for the Canyon ISD for 19 years. In his current role as director of innovation and instruction, he is part of the Curriculum and Professional Development (PD) department. Their goal is to ensure that all students receive a quality education through the implementation of a well-balanced curriculum and effective teaching strategies.

## ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

### CUSTOMIZING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“It’s hard for teachers to sometimes tailor their professional development to meet their goals,” said Norton. He added that what teachers learn needs to directly impact how they plan lessons moving forward.

To assist with this effort, Norton’s department began to seek digital resources that could align with the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). This system focuses on “providing continuous, timely and formative feedback to educators so they can improve their practice.” The Dave Burgess Consulting, Inc., and Impress collections that are available through the *Gale eBooks: Professional Learning* platform met Canyon ISD’s requirements.

Gale also partners with other top publishers, such as ASCD, Corwin Press, Times 10 Publications, and Stenhouse Publishers—allowing users access to thousands of digital titles.

“The PD collection has given our teachers another option to choose eBooks that benefit them professionally and give them ideas to directly impact instruction,” said Norton.

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