

Sustaining School Reform Initiatives

School Reform Module Six

Course Description

After acquiring new resources or beginning new programs, schools must reflect upon ways to sustain their momentum. This professional development module will help participants understand where they are in the process of sustainability and how they might move forward in their improvement process. This module is part of a 3-credit course in School Reform.

Competencies

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to

- Understand how district school reform impacts individual schools
- Define sustainability and how it applies to the school improvement process
- Apply sustainability principles to your school situation

Materials

All materials are accessed via the [CaseNEX website](#) using the PIN provided and the user name/password you create.

All readings listed can be found by going to *Class Materials*→*Virtual Library*→*Readings (Search)*.

If you do not have the most recent versions of the following software, please download each from the given sites.

- [RealPlayer](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#)
- [QuickTime](#)

Cases Used

- Roads to Reform: Freedom Area High School

Course Schedule

Find session dates by selecting *Syllabus* on the top menu bar. For typical courses, final Discussions, Journals, and Workbooks are due by Saturday at midnight unless otherwise noted. Please see the News Flash for any alterations of the course schedule posted by your instructor.

Introductory Session

Exploring the CaseNEX Site

Complete these tasks prior to the beginning of Session 1.

Readings

Read the course requirements, paying special attention to the Case-Analysis and Workbook Assignment Rubrics. They will be used by your instructor throughout the course to evaluate assignments where appropriate.

Discussion

Post one entry introducing yourself to your classmates. You may choose to describe your experience with program sustainability or why you are taking this course. (100 words or fewer)

Journal

What are the implications of program sustainability in your school community? (100 words or fewer)

Note

Use CaseMail to send a note to your instructor stating that you will be taking this course. To do so, click on CaseMail on the top menu bar and then 'Click here to create a new message.' Use the marked link to look up an address. Continue linking down until you see the class list. Select the instructor's name and then compose your message and hit 'Post Message.'

Session 1

Defining Sustainability

Case

Roads to Reform: Freedom Area High School

Readings

- Critical Perspective, Ron Sofo
- Sustaining Your Reform: Five Lessons from Research
- Sustaining Change in High School Reform

Discussion

Identify **actions** both school and district-level administrators have taken to set ambitions and expectations for their schools. What are the potential **consequences** of these actions (both intended and unintended)? How might these results impact the sustainability of the reform initiatives at Freedom Area High School?

Journal

Examine Lesson Two in the “Sustaining Your Reform” reading from this session. Using the definitions provided, determine which stage best describes Freedom Area High School. Provide a rationale for your answer using **knowledge** from the reading and from the case.

Note

Check your CaseMail (linked from top menu bar) and News Flash (on the right when you login) for notes from your instructor every time you log on to the site.

Session 2

Achieving Sustainability

Case

Roads to Reform: Freedom Area High School

Readings

- Nine Hard Things to Do in Order to Sustain School Reform

Discussion

Administrators in the Freedom Area School District use the 4 R's model to guide their reform. What roles do school culture and context play in the success of such a model? Consider **perspectives** that might not be fully represented in the case (families, students, school staff, etc.) and post responses from each of those perspectives. Be sure to highlight the needs of the stakeholder population and how they might impact the sustainability of new programs.

Journal

Choose 3 of the **issues** from "Nine Hard Things to Do in Order to Sustain School Reform" that your school or district has faced or may face in the school improvement process. Describe how each issue manifests itself in your school and suggest **actions** to address the challenges that result. As you outline your action plans, consider the **perspectives** of all stakeholders in the school change process.