

# A Framework for School Reform

## School Reform: Module One

### Course Description

Many forces serve as catalysts for school reform. This course examines some of the social, economic, political, and educational foundations behind these forces. Course participants will explore the many aspects of school reform as well as examine related benefits and challenges for schools, teachers and students. It is part of a 3-credit course in School Reform.

### Competencies

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to

- Identify issues surrounding school reform initiatives
- Recognize the role of technology and strategic partnerships as critical success factors for change
- Respond to the benefits and challenges of school reform in the areas of curriculum and instruction

### 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.

- [Windows Media Player](#)
- [RealPlayer](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#)

### Cases Used

- School of the Future

### Course requirements and grades

## 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. Discuss how your educational and teaching experiences have been impacted by school reform **issues**. (100 words or fewer)

## **Journal**

Describe your views on No Child Left Behind and the standards and accountability movement which currently influence most school reform initiatives. (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

*Developing a social and political context for school reform*

### Case

School of the Future

### Readings

- Leveraging Technology for High School Reform Initiatives
- Parent Engagement as a School Reform Strategy
- Evaluating No Child Left Behind
- High School Reform

### Discussion

Compare the strategies discussed in “Leveraging Technology for High School Reform Initiatives” to relevant **issues** at the School of the Future. Use **knowledge** gained from the readings to explain how the school’s curriculum and its focus on technology might benefit “learners” after graduation? Offer your thoughts on schoolwide attempts to foster community connections and brainstorm additional **actions** SOTF staff and students might take toward raising student achievement.

### Journal

The article “High School Reform” discusses multiple solutions to the problems facing public high schools. Rank these solutions according to your professional **knowledge** and experiences and justify your decisions. What have been some of the **consequences** of No Child Left Behind on how school reform is evaluated?

### 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

### *Promoting life-long learning*

#### Case

School of the Future

#### Readings

- Research Implications for Preparing Teachers to Use Technology
- Barriers to effective professional development and school reform
- Project-Based Learning: A Primer

#### Discussion

Project-based learning is a critical component of curriculum and instruction at SOTF. Discuss the value of project-based learning in this era of standards and accountability. What **actions** can educators take to ensure that students who are learning in a project-based classroom will also be prepared for standardized assessments they are required to take?

#### Journal

Using **knowledge** from the readings, describe some effective professional development for teachers that encourages technology use. Using the Microsoft Competency Wheel from the case as a point of reference, suggest interview questions a panel might ask a “chief learner” candidate to ensure that his or her teaching philosophy is consistent with that of the school.