

# Transforming School Culture with Innovative Leadership

## School Reform: Module Four

### Course Description

A positive school climate impacts all aspects of a school, from teacher morale to student achievement. This professional development module will help participants understand the ways school leaders develop an overall vision for school wide success. Special focus will be given to the issues and challenges relevant to urban schools. This module is part of a 3-credit course in School Reform.

### Competencies

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to

- Analyze the role of the principal in school improvement initiatives
- Summarize research on school culture
- Evaluate the role of technology for improving teaching and learning

### Materials

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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

- Sto-Rox High School

### 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**

Describe your experiences teaching with technology and ways your mentors, coaches, or administrators have supported you as you integrate technology in your classroom. (100 words or fewer)

### **Journal**

What are ways that a school principal can influence school culture and student achievement? In your experience, how have changes in administrative leadership impacted the staff and students? (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

*Building a culture of achievement with transformative leadership*

### Case

Sto-Rox High School

### Readings

- School Leadership: Theory and Practice
- Improving School Culture
- School Culture: The Hidden Curriculum

### Discussion

Using **knowledge** from this session's readings, classify Principal Melanie Kerber as a transformative leader or another type of leader, referencing her specific **actions** from the case. What have been the most favorable **consequences** of Melanie's first year at the school, both academically and in terms of school culture?

### Journal

Identify **issues** that can either positively or negatively influence school culture. Then, name some of the traditions, symbols, ceremonies, and rituals in the schools where you have either been a teacher or a student. Were these things as critical to the overall success of a school as the author of "School Culture: The Hidden Curriculum" would lead you to believe? Explain your answer.

### 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

### *Integrating technology to improve student achievement*

#### Case

Sto-Rox High School

#### Readings

- Critical Issue: Ensuring Equitable Use of Education Technology
- Critical Issue: Using Technology to Enhance Engaged Learning for At-Risk Students
- Strategies for Improving Academic Achievement and Teacher Effectiveness

#### Discussion

Review the varied ways teachers provide access to technology to promote both student engagement and achievement. Then, using **knowledge** from the readings, discuss your expectations of lessons that technology and are engaging and meaningful. As you respond to your colleagues, explain whether or not the Digital Microscope Assignment meets your expectations.

#### Journal

The “Strategies for Improving Achievement and Teacher Effectiveness” reading focuses on five main **issues**: leadership, core vision, professional development, time, and assessment. Using these criteria, evaluate your school or district’s technology plan. Propose five **actions** your district might take to ensure technology is used in ways that will result in school improvement and student achievement.