

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**EDLE 610, Section 601, Spring, 2017
Leading Schools and Communities – 3 credits**

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Education Leadership Program

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Office Hours: Monday, 3-4 pm and by appointment

Course Schedule Information

Location: Saunders MS, Room B10

Meeting times: Mondays, 4:30 to 7:30pm [1/9/17 to 4/17/17]

Course Description: EDLE 610 Leading Schools and Communities (3:3:0)

Examines critical functions of leadership and organizational management, complex decision making responsibilities of school executives, and constructive relationships between schools and communities. Incorporates historical, ethical, philosophical, and sociological foundations of American education and the impact of organizational structure on reform and student achievement. Practical and academic emphasis on leadership skill development and dispositions.

Prerequisite(s): EDLE 620; EDLE 690; EDLE 791

Course Objectives

Students will deepen their understanding of (1) the use of research findings and tools to lead schools and communities, (2) the nature and strengths of diverse communities, (3) how organizations function, and (4) how leaders influence school and community change and improvement. Additionally, they will sharpen their oral and written communication, and reflection and general leadership skills.

Nature of Course Delivery

A variety of instructional methods are used in this course including: direct instruction, cooperative learning activities, media use, Internet assignments, lectures, group presentations, individual research, case studies, simulations, and written and oral assignments.

General Goals

Content

All EDLE program goals are active in this course. The primary purpose of this course is to prepare students to exercise leadership in the school and larger community within an explicit conceptual framework. Candidates will deepen their understanding of: (1) the use of research and development tools to lead schools and communities, (2) how organizations function, and (3) how leaders influence school change and improvement. Specific content includes:

1. Reviewing and expanding on the meaning of leadership and the role leaders play in change within the school community.
2. Investigating political, financial, legal and instructional implications of issues related to the needs, strengths, and actions of the local school community and school division.
3. Clarifying which framework(s) students find most useful for informing their individual leadership philosophy;
4. Applying skills, knowledge, and dispositions gained through the Education Leadership Program to the analysis of case studies, focus group data, and role-playing exercises involving leadership behaviors.

Teaching and Learning

Each class will include a variety of learning activities. Out-of-class work will rely in part on the use of Blackboard and other web-based resources created to complement primary texts. Specific process goals for the class are as follows:

1. Classes will reflect a balance of activities that encourage inquiry and discourse. To promote an atmosphere that allows us to accomplish this, we will:
 - a. Start and end on time;
 - b. Maintain a written agenda reflecting objectives for each class;
 - c. Agree to disagree respectfully during class discussions;

- d. Strive to be open to new ideas and multiple perspectives; and
 - e. Listen actively to one another.
2. Student work will reflect a level of quality expected from leaders. As such, students are expected to:
 - a. Prepare papers that are well researched, proofread, submitted on time, and conform to APA guidelines;
 - b. Participate actively in class discussions;
 - c. Provide constructive oral and written feedback to others.

Learning Outcomes

Students will emerge from the course able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skills needed to collaborate with families and other community members, respond to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilize community resources to create and maintain a positive school culture.
2. Identify, assess, and apply elements of a constructive relationship between a school and its community to support the school's mission and vision.
3. Gain insight into power structures and pressure groups in the school community to create coalitions and increase support for school programs and goals.
4. Identify leadership knowledge and skills that promote success of all students through integrity, fairness, and ethical behavior on the part of faculty and staff.

National Standards and Virginia Competencies

The course addresses selected Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Competencies, The Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards, and Educational Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC), and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standards. Specific ELCC standards addressed include:

ELCC Standard 1.0: A building-level education leader applies knowledge that promotes the success of every student by collaboratively facilitating the development, articulation, implementation, and stewardship of a shared school vision of learning through the collection and use of data to identify school goals, assess organizational effectiveness, and implement school plans to achieve school goals; promotion of continual and sustainable school improvement; and evaluation of school progress and revision of school plans supported by school-based stakeholders.

1.1 Candidates understand and can collaboratively develop, articulate, implement, and steward a shared vision of learning for a school.

1.2 Candidates understand and can collect and use data to identify school goals, assess organization effectiveness, and implement plans to achieve school goals.

ELCC Standard 4.0: A building-level education leader applies knowledge that promotes the success of every student by collaborating with faculty and community members, responding to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilizing community resources on behalf of the school by collecting and analyzing information pertinent to improvement of the school’s educational environment; promoting an understanding, appreciation, and use of the diverse cultural, social, and intellectual resources within the school community; building and sustaining positive school relationships with families and caregivers; and cultivating productive school relationships with community partners.

4.1 Candidates understand and can collaborate with faculty and community members by collecting and analyzing information pertinent to the improvement of the school’s educational environment.

4.2 Candidates understand and can mobilize community resources by promoting an understanding, appreciation, and use of diverse cultural, social, and intellectual resources within the school community.

4.3 Candidates understand and can respond to community interests and needs by building and sustaining positive school relationships with families and caregivers.

4.4 Candidates understand and can respond to community interests and needs by building and sustaining productive school relationships with community partners

ELCC Standard 6.0: A building-level education leader applies knowledge that promotes the success of every student by understanding, responding to, and influencing the larger political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context through advocating for school students, families, and caregivers; acting to influence local, district, state, and national decisions affecting student learning in a school environment; and anticipating and assessing emerging trends and initiatives in order to adapt school-based leadership strategies.

6.3 Candidates understand and can anticipate and assess emerging trends and initiatives in order to adapt school-based leadership strategies.

Specific VDOE standards addressed in this course include:

- a7. Identification, analysis, and resolution of problems using effective problem-solving techniques;
- d2. Working collaboratively with staff, families, and community members to secure resources and to support the success of a diverse population;
- d3. Developing appropriate public relations and public engagement strategies and process;
- d4. Principles of effective two-way communication, including consensus building and negotiation skills;
- f3. Identify and respond to internal and external forces and influences on a school

Relationship of Course Goals to Program Goals

Student outcomes and activities for this course are related to the following GMU/EDLE program goals:

1. Students understand the complexities of change in schools.
2. Students develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to create and maintain learning environments that value diversity, continual knowledge acquisition, instructional leadership, innovative and ethical decision-making, reflective practice, and successful achievement of all school-aged youth.

Relationship of Course to Internship

Although the internship is a separate course, the Education Leadership program has integrated “embedded experiences” into course work. This means that some of the work for this class is related to the internship. Students may write about embedded experiences in their internship journals and Collective Records, but they can only count over and above the minimum 320 hours required for the internship.

Course Materials

Recommended Resource:

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edition). Washington, D.C. American Psychological Association.

Other Course Resources will be listed in the weekly schedule and will be available on Blackboard.

Technology Requirements

Online access is vital for the virtual learning aspects of the course and is important if we experience school shutdowns because of the weather or other problems. **All students are now required to activate and monitor their GMU e-mail accounts.** If you are uncertain about how to do this, please see me. It is my expectation that you will be fully competent to send and receive e-mail messages **with attachments**. If your computer at school or home has spam blocking that will prevent you from seeing messages with attachments, you are responsible for addressing this problem immediately.

All students are required to use Blackboard as part of this course. This is an Internet site at which I will post vital information for the course and through which we will communicate from time to time. Samples of student work will be archived on this site for purposes of course, program, and college assessment.

All students should have access to standard word processing software that can be read by Microsoft Office 2013.

Tk20 REQUIREMENTS

Every student registered for EDLE 610 course is required to submit these assessments: [a] **Parent Involvement** and [b] **School/Community Leaders Assessment of School Effectiveness** to Tk20 through Blackboard (regardless of whether a course is an elective, a onetime course or part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in Tk20 through Blackboard. Failure to submit the assessment to Tk20 (through Blackboard) will result in the course instructor reporting the grade as Incomplete (IN). Unless the IN grade is changed upon completion of the Tk20 submission, the IN will convert to an F nine weeks into the following semester.

Course Requirements, Performance-Based Assessment, and Evaluation Criteria

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class for its entirety. Maximum class participation points will be earned by students who attend all classes, are on time, and do not leave early.

General Expectations

Consistent with expectations of a master's level course in the Education Leadership program, grading is based heavily on student performance on written assignments. Overall, written work will be assessed using the following broad criteria:

1. Application of concepts reflected in class discussion and readings;
2. Original thinking and persuasiveness; and
3. Clarity.

Additionally, a portion of the class grade will be based on participation and the contribution you make to class discussions. The overall weights of the various performances are as follows:

Reflection, Research, and Class participation: 25 points

Educational leaders must be able to use current research in making informed decisions and improving community relations. With this in mind, a primary objective of EDLE 610 is to have students deepen their understanding of the use of research and tools to lead schools and communities. Consequently you should find opportunity throughout the course and assignments to explore existing research on a specific topic, organize and evaluate that research, and then share your findings with your classmates and/or in Blackboard activities.

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, in group activities, and in serving as critical friends to other students. Attendance is expected for all classes. **If you must be absent, please notify me by e-mail or phone.** More than one absence may result in a reduction in participation points. Arriving at class more than 30 minutes late or leaving more than 30 minutes before the end of class may result in loss of points.

Written assignments: 75 points

Two performance-based assessments will be completed during the semester. The **School/Community Leaders Assessment of School Effectiveness** and **Parent Involvement** assignments represent the *required* program-level performance based assessments for this course. Each assignment relates to the application of educational research in your school setting. A description and directions for each assignment and a rubric for grading each assignment are included at the end of this syllabus.

ALL GRADED ASSIGNMENTS must be submitted electronically, through Tk20.

Late work: I expect all students to submit work on time, meaning no later than by midnight of the due date. Papers due on a day when you are absent must be submitted via Tk20 by the due date. Papers submitted more than 48 hours late will **NOT** be graded.

Rewrites: Students may rewrite a paper (other than the final paper) and re-submit for re-grading within one week of receiving the paper back. I recommend that students not consider re-writing papers with scores of 3.6 or higher. If you wish to discuss your work, I am willing to do so at a time of mutual convenience.

Grading scale:

A+	100+ percent
A	95-99 percent
A-	90-94 percent
B+	86-89 percent
B	83-85 percent
B-	80-82 percent
C	75-79 percent
F	74 percent or below

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

1. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
2. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
3. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
4. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).

- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/api/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing (see <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>).
- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance (see <http://caps.gmu.edu/>).
- The Office of Student Support staff helps students negotiate life situations by connecting them with appropriate campus and off-campus resources. Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone (703-993-5376). Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community by going to <http://studentsupport.gmu.edu/>, and the OSS staff will follow up with the student.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <http://cehd.gmu.edu/>.

Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Proposed and revised class schedule (Spring, 2017)

To accommodate the learning needs of the class, the lesson and activities may be amended during the semester. Please check announcements on the course website for any update to the schedule if you miss a class.

Date	Lessons	Readings/Activities
January 9 [1]	1 Course Expectations and Overview 2 Leadership and Effective Schools 3 Vision & Mission [1] 4 Know Your Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Vision, Leadership & Change’ [view] • ‘Generations’ • ‘Eight Basic Competencies’

January 16	No CLASS SESSION	MLK, JR. Holiday
January 23 [2]	1 Vision & Mission [2] 2 Focus Groups [1] 3 Focus Groups [2] 4 <i>Assignment #1 reviewed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Study: Who Should Decide the Vision?’ • Mission Activity [2 handouts] • Introducing Focus Groups [Ppoint]
January 30 & February 6	1 Research and Fieldwork: Assessing School Effectiveness 2 <u>NOTE: January 30th will be a ‘BlogChat Session’</u>	<i>BlogChat Session on January 30th from 5:00 to 7:00pm</i>
February 13[5]	1 Change, Change, Change 2 Vision & Mission [3] 3 Simon Sinek’s ‘Three Circles’ 4 Assignment #1 [exemplar] reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Visions that Blind’ • Michael Fullan on Change • Review Assignment #1 [exemplar]
February 20	NO CLASS SESSION	Presidents’ Day Holiday
February 27[6]	1 Culture, Climate & community [1] 2 ‘Equity’ 3 Simulation [Porterfield Trust] 4 Parent Involvement [1]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bagin: ‘Understanding the Community’ • Equity Traps • Case Study: ‘Let’s Not Rap’ • Epstein’s ‘Spheres of Influence’ • Video: Diversity, Cultural Competency & Social Justice
March 6 [7]	1 Culture, Climate & Community [2] 2 School, Family & Community Partnerships 3 Epstein: Understanding the Community 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Emily Pilloton on TED talks • Survey: Measure of School, Family & Community • Video: What is School Culture & Climate? • Review Assignment #2

		'exemplar'
Assignment #1 Assessing School Effectiveness Assignment due March 6		
March 13 & 20	1 Research and Fieldwork: Parent/Community Involvement 2 NOTE: March 13th will be a BlogChat Session	<i>BlogChat Session on March 13th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm</i>
March 27 [10]	1 Culture, Climate & Community [3] 2 Community Maps 3 Assignment #2 'exemplar' reviewed 4 Family Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement or Engagement? • Kenia & Kramer: Collective Compact • Community Maps • Case Study: 'The Disillusioned AP'
April 3	1 Simulations [a] "A Matter of Honor" [b] tbd 2 Class Workshop [Assignment #2]	Simulations [2] Class Workshop [Assignment #2]
April 10	NO Class Session	PWCPS Spring Break
April 17	1 Roundtable Presentations for Assignment #2 2 Course Wrap-up	Roundtable Presentations
Assignment #2 Parent Involvement Assignment due April 17		

Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

Vision

The Education Leadership Program is dedicated to improving the quality of pre-K – 12 education through teaching, research, and service. Candidates and practicing administrators engage in course work devoted to experiential learning, professional growth opportunities,

and doctoral research that informs practice. We educate exceptional leaders who act with integrity as they work to improve schools.

Course Assignments [2]

I. School/Community Leaders Assessment of School Effectiveness (40 points)

Rationale

It is easy (and popular) to talk about school vision, but it is rare that we check whether or not others perceive our schools as achieving the vision they set out for themselves. This assignment requires you to determine how leaders in your school community perceive your school's performance. Taking focus group discussions as raw data and analyzing them through the frame of your school's vision statements requires you to determine if your school's theories in use are well aligned with its espoused theories—an important initial step toward school improvement. Weaving community perceptions into the school improvement process is critical to building community support for change and advancement. Presenting your analysis and action plan is a crucial part of the process of leading for school improvement.

Process

- Working with your intern supervisor/principal identify a minimum of 9 leaders in the school community, community at large or business community who have a stake in this issue.
- Develop an interview protocol to be used in the discussion with the identified leaders, with the major question being “How well is our school implementing its vision statement?”
- You will establish a meeting date and location and invite participants to attend. Provide a clear, concise summary of the purpose of the focus group, the nature of questions, how data will be used, the right to confidentiality of responses and the time needed for the interview meeting.
- After conducting the focus group, build a matrix with questions and significant responses. Look for common themes that will be summarized in the paper, along with contrasting points of view, lack of clarity of the issue, and other significant concerns.

Your paper will be 6-10 pages long (excluding the title and reference pages) and include:

- an introduction that includes a thesis statement
- a profile of the school and community

- a summary of the methods used and results of the focus group discussion, including a matrix of responses with the participant roles clearly labeled;
- a summary table of themes gathered from focus groups;
- significant findings;
- recommended areas for improvement;
- a plan of action aimed to align espoused theories and theories in use based on the data collected; and a summary.

Be sure to conclude with a restatement of your thesis and a brief discussion of the implications of what you learned from the focus group experience and your action plan.

School/Community Leaders Assessment of School Effectiveness Assignment Rubric

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	exceeds expectations	meets expectations	approaching expectations	falls below expectations
Thesis and introduction Weight 10.00%	90 to 100 % The introduction draws the reader into the paper and ends with a clear and compelling thesis. The introduction provides a clear roadmap for the reader, foreshadowing what the paper is intended to cover.	80 to 89 % Paper starts with a brief introduction that alludes to the purpose of the paper, contains a thesis, and provides a general foreshadowing of what is to be included.	70 to 79 % The introduction provides some indication of the purpose of the paper, but lacks a thesis and/or provides inadequate or confusing information about what is to be shared.	0 to 69 % There is no clear introduction or purpose.
ELCC 1.2 Profile of the school and community: Candidates demonstrate that they understand and can collect and use data to identify school goals and assess effectiveness Weight 10.00%	90 to 100 % The profile clearly defines demographic and performance data, instructional practices and programs, improvement goals, school community trends, and areas for potential change.	80 to 89 % The profile provides general information about demographic and performance data, instructional practices and programs, improvement goals, school community trends, and areas for potential change.	70 to 79 % The profile includes limited information about demographic and performance data, instructional practices and programs, improvement goals, school community trends, and areas for potential change.	0 to 69 % There is no profile provided.

<p>ELCC 1.1 The school vision: Candidates demonstrate that they understand and can collaboratively develop, articulate, implement and steward a vision Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The school's vision statement is included and assessed regarding the degree to which it relates to current instructional programs, SIP goals, and resources.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The vision statement and its goals are identified and there is a general explanation of how its goals are supported.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The vision statement is identified. Its goals and support are not clearly identified.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % There is no mention of the school vision and/or description of how the vision is supported.</p>
<p>ELCC 1.4 Focus group planning: The focus group process demonstrates that candidates understand and can evaluate school progress and revise school plans supported by school stakeholders Weight 15.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The focus group process is powerfully designed, including an interview protocol that targets important school improvement issues, and selection of a variety of focus group participants that include key school stakeholders.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The focus group process is well designed, but has gaps either in terms of the construction of interview questions or limited involvement of some stakeholders.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The focus group process is usable as designed, but there are gaps in terms of either the interview protocol or invitation of participants.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The focus group design was poorly or haphazardly planned resulting in significant problems that affected the veracity of the data.</p>

<p>ELCC 4.1 Focus Group results: The focus group process demonstrates that candidates understand and can collaborate with faculty and community members to collect and analyze data pertinent to school improvement Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The narrative and matrix present a comprehensive summary of all phases of the focus group discussions. Significant findings are specifically identified.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % A narrative and matrix are presented. The narrative and/or findings are discussed in a general manner.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % A narrative and matrix are presented. There is little detail in the narrative, matrix and findings.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The narrative, matrix and/or findings or missing</p>
<p>ELCC 4.4 Improvement areas: The focus group data analysis demonstrates that candidates understand and can respond to community interests and issues Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % Analysis of focus group evidence yields a clear and concise set of recommendations for improvement based on stakeholder suggestions and candidate analysis of existing school programs or practices.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % Recommendations generally follow themes evident in focus group data, but are only loosely connected to stakeholder input.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % Recommendations are evidence, but their connection to stakeholder input is vague or hard to discern.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % Recommendations are incomplete or missing</p>
<p>ELCC 1.3 Action Plan: The action plan demonstrates that candidates understand and can promote continual and sustainable improvement Weight 15.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The Action Plan is fully developed. Its relationship to the data collected and steps toward improvement are explicitly stated.</p>	<p>80 to 90 % The Action Plan is outlined. There is some relationship shown between the plan and the data collected.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The Action Plan is vague. There is little relationship between the plan and the data collected.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The Action Plan is incomplete.</p>

<p>ELCC 4.3 Candidates demonstrate the ability to conduct a needs assessment of families and caregivers Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The project provides evidence of a superior ability to conduct a needs assessment and develop collaborative strategies and/or recommendations related to community interests and needs</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The project provides evidence of an adequate ability to conduct a needs assessment and develop collaborative strategies and/or recommendations related to community interests and needs</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The project provides evidence of some ability to conduct a needs assessment and develop collaborative strategies and/or recommendations related to community interests and needs</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The project does not provide evidence of the ability to conduct a needs assessment and develop collaborative strategies and/or recommendations related to community interests and needs</p>
<p>Quality of support Weight 5.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100% The recommendations appear to be grounded in research about the topic in general and research about the specific elements of the school's program.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The recommendations may be grounded in research about the topic but are unresponsive to actual school conditions or unresponsive to research and responsive to school conditions.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % Recommendations are responsive neither to school conditions nor research.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % It is unclear what recommendations are proposed.</p>
<p>Mechanics Weight 5.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The paper is error free.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % There are only a few minor errors in the paper.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The paper has several errors indicating a lack of proofreading.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The paper contains many significant errors.</p>

II. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (35 points)

Using Epstein's framework of six types of parent involvement, conduct an assessment of the parent involvement program in your school, and then recommend how to improve it.

1. *The Written Assignment should include the following elements:*

Introduction

Describe in summary terms the current parent involvement program in your school and then foreshadow the results of your assessment and your recommendations to improve it.

Program Description and Assessment

Describe the parent involvement program in your school by indicating what the school is doing in regard to Epstein's six types of parent involvement (parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision-making, and collaborating with the community).

Assess each type of parent involvement by explaining a. the degree to which the program addresses each type of parent involvement, b. the degree to which the efforts satisfy the needs of the parents, and c. the degree to which the efforts satisfy the needs of the school. In your assessment, cite any evaluations of the efforts that may be available and the findings of your own investigation.

Program Improvement Recommendations

Write recommendations for improving the program based on your assessment of the greatest needs for improvement. The program improvement recommendation should include:

Recommendations and Rationale - Indicate your recommendations and why you are making the recommendations and the ways in which they respond to your assessment. A useful way to establish the rationale is to conduct a discrepancy analysis in which you describe what the ideal program would look like and how your current program compares.

Outcomes - Specify in measurable terms two types of outcomes. *Process or implementation outcomes* describe major elements of what will change in the delivery of the program (e.g., the implementation of a new service, completing professional development efforts). *Substantive outcomes* refer to changes in behavior (e.g., levels of parent commitment and involvement, and student achievement).

Program Description - Describe the elements of your program changes and how they will be accomplished. Specify the essential attributes of your program by way of a program configuration checklist.

Implementation Plan - Provide the steps for implementation, assuring that you will address the functions of

- planning,
- building support,
- building capacity to conduct the program,
- securing resources if needed,
- implementing programmatic interventions or activities,
- evaluating the process and evaluating substantive outcomes.

In addressing those functions, indicate

- the activity or task,
- who will be responsible for completing it,
- when (date) it will be completed,
- any resources required, and
- the evidence that will be accepted as a sign of accomplishment.

Evaluation Plan Describe how you will evaluate both process and substantive outcomes, indicating

- what measures will be used
- how the data will be collected
- how the analysis will be accomplished

The written assignment should be 7 pages (+/-) excluding title and reference pages

2. Presentation Assignment: Improving Parent Involvement

Using your written document, develop a 5-7 minute presentation to be delivered to a simulated panel of experienced school administrators who will provide evaluative feedback.

The panel will evaluate the presentation on the basis of:

- Clarity of presentation
- Clarity and persuasiveness of rationale
- Quality of program recommendations (degree to which they are likely to accomplish the desired outcomes).
- Quality of implementation and evaluation plans (degree to which they are likely to result in a successful project).

Parent Involvement Assignment Rubric

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	exceeds expectations	meets expectations	approaching expectations	falls below expectations
Thesis and introduction Weight 10.00%	90 to 100 % The introduction draws the reader into the written assignment and ends with a clear and compelling thesis. The introduction provides a clear roadmap for the reader, foreshadowing what the written assignment is intended to cover.	80 to 89 % Written assignment starts with a brief introduction that alludes to the purpose of the written assignment, contains a thesis, and provides a general foreshadowing of what is to be included.	70 to 79 % The introduction provides some indication of the purpose of the written assignment, but lacks a thesis and/or provides inadequate or confusing information about what is to be shared.	0 to 69 % There is no clear introduction or purpose.

<p>ELCC 1.2 Program Description - The program description demonstrates that the candidate understands and can amass data to identify school goals, processes and program effectiveness Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The written assignment describes the parent involvement program in your school by indicating what the school is doing in regard to Epstein’s six types of parent involvement. Each type of parent involvement is assessed by reference to a. the degree to which the program addresses each type of parent involvement, b. the degree to which the efforts satisfy the needs of the parents, and c. the degree to which the efforts satisfy the needs of the school</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The written assignment includes a depiction of the parent involvement program but may be missing key elements by reference to the degree to which Epstein’s six types of involvement are discussed or in terms of the degree to which the efforts satisfy the needs of the parents or the school, or the extant evaluations of the program.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The program description and assessment is unclear, vague or missing a number of key elements.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The program description and assessment is either largely missing or inadequate.</p>
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<p>ELCC 1.3 Program Improvement Recommendations & rationale - Program improvement recommendations and rationale demonstrate that the candidate understands and can promote continual improvement Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % Recommendations are offered that clearly address needs identified, and clear and persuasive statements are provided to support the importance of the recommendations and the need for their realization on the basis of a discrepancy analysis relating the proposed changes to an ideal program.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % Recommendations are offered that address needs identified. Clear and persuasive statements are provided to support the recommendations but are not supported by a discrepancy analysis or a discrepancy analysis is not accompanied by clear and persuasive statements supporting the importance of the recommendations.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The recommendations or statements supporting the recommendations made are unclear or not supported by a discrepancy analysis.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % Recommendations or the rationale is either missing or unclear.</p>
<p>ELCC 4.1 Program Outcomes - Program outcomes demonstrate that the candidate understands and can collaborate with faculty and community to develop improvements in the schools' educational environment Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The written assignment specifies in measurable terms two types of outcomes. Process or implementation outcomes describe major elements of what will change in the delivery of the program. Substantive outcomes refer to changes in behavior related to the commitment or involvement of parents and student achievement.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The written assignment includes outcomes that may not be measurable, or omits process or substantive outcomes.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The written assignment omits important elements of outcomes.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The written assignment omits outcomes or outcome statements are not clear.</p>

<p>ELCC 4.2 Program Description - Program description demonstrates that candidates understand and can mobilize school and community resources by understanding, appreciating, and using diverse social, cultural, and intellectual resources Weight 10.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The written assignment clearly delineates the elements of the program changes and how they will be accomplished, harnessing the unique resources of the school and school community. The essential attributes of the program are presented in a program configuration display.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The written assignment includes elements of the program changes, but is vague as to how school or community resources are employed or leaves one or more changes unclear.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % Program elements are evident, but the description of how the program would meet the needs of the community or harness community resources is not evident.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The written assignment omits the program description or leaves the reader unsure what it is.</p>
<p>ELCC 4.3 Program Implementation Plan - The implementation plan demonstrates that candidates understand and can respond to community interests and needs by building positive relationships with parents, caregivers and community partners Weight 20.00%</p>	<p>90 to 100 % A thorough plan is presented that responds to parent and community interests and involves parents or caregivers. The plan clearly addresses the functions specified and indicates for each task, who will be responsible for completing it, the date of completion, any resources required, and what will be counted as evidence of its successful completion.</p>	<p>80 to 89 % A plan is presented that responds to parent and community needs, involving parents or caregivers, but elements of the plan are unclear or the plan, if enacted, would not likely produce the espoused outcomes.</p>	<p>70 to 79 % A plan is presented that responds to parent and community needs, but how parents or caregivers are involved is not clear, and key elements of the plan are missing.</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The written assignment fails to include the plan or presents it sketchily and/or unclearly.</p>
<p>ELCC 3.1 Program Evaluation Plan - The evaluation plan demonstrates that candidates understand and</p>	<p>90 to 100 % The written assignment specifies clearly the elements of the evaluation</p>	<p>80 to 89 % The written assignment omits one or more elements of the evaluation plan</p>	<p>70 to 79 % The written assignment describes evaluation activities but</p>	<p>0 to 69 % The written assignment omits the evaluation plan or presents it so unclearly that</p>

can monitor and evaluate implementation of the parent involvement plan. Weight 10.00%	plan.	and/or describes one or more elements unclearly	omits two or more elements.	the reader would not know how the evaluation will be completed.
ELCC 4.4 Presentation of plan - Presentation of the plan demonstrates that candidates understand and can respond to community and parent interests by building and sustaining positive relationships Weight 10.00%	90 to 100 % The presentation clearly and succinctly demonstrates that the analysis, recommendations, plan and outcomes proposed will result in promoting effective relationships with parents and/or community partners.	80 to 89 % The presentation generally demonstrates that the analysis, recommendations, plan and outcomes proposed will result in promoting effective relationships with parents and/or community partners.	70 to 79 % The presentation is somewhat vague relating to how the recommendations, plan and outcomes proposed will result in promoting effective relationships with parents and/or community partners.	0 to 69 % The presentation is weak, disconnected, and wholly fails to demonstrate that actions proposed will result in promoting effective relationships with parents and/or community partners.
Quality of support for recommendations Weight 5.00%	90 to 100 % The recommendations appear to be grounded in research about the topic in general and research about the specific elements of the school's program.	80 to 89 % The recommendations may be grounded in research about the topic but are unresponsive to actual school conditions or unresponsive to research and responsive to school conditions.	70 to 79 % Recommendations are responsive neither to school conditions nor research.	0 to 69 % It is unclear what recommendations are proposed.
Mechanics Weight 5.00%	90 to 100 % No grammatical or APA errors are present.	80 to 89 % Occasional grammatical errors and questionable word choices are present.	70 to 79 % Errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation are present.	0 to 69 % The written assignment contains many errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.