Turning High-Poverty Schools into High-Performing Schools

In this course, you will gain new understandings of families living in poverty and the concrete steps that high-poverty, high-performing (HP/HP) schools have taken to improve outcomes for all students. You will also have opportunities to read research, case studies, and anecdotal reports of how schools have welcomed students and families living in poverty to transition from wherever they are into high-performing schools. Course resources will guide you through activities to assess your school and create action plans.

One of the critical components of the course is building leadership capacity. Whether you are an administrator or teacher, you will feel empowered to take advantage of opportunities to improve outcomes for students in your school, especially if you have a high percentage of students living in poverty.
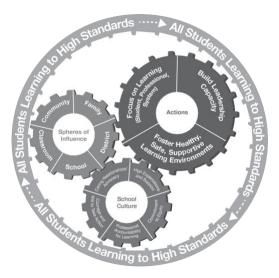
This course is based on William Parrett and Kathleen Budge's Framework for Action, which uses gear wheels to represent

Spheres of Influence   **Actions**   **School Culture**

As you work through the course, you will see how improvements in any one of the three areas can influence the other two.

Source: From *Turning High-Poverty Schools into High-Performing* Schools (p. 16), by W. H. Parrett and K. M. Budge, 2012, Alexandria, VA: ASCD. Copyright 2012 by ASCD.

Course Objectives

Module 1

- Describe the adverse effects poverty often has on student learning.
- Distinguish explicit beliefs about poverty and people who live in poverty from tacitly held assumptions.
- Analyze how mental maps affect educators' behavior and attitudes.

Module 2

- Investigate your city and state and your school and district free and reduced-price lunch census data.
- Assess your school using suggestions from Gorski (2007) and Landsman (2014) for challenging the status quo in your school.
- Determine whether poverty is a school-based or societal problem and how a both/and solution is needed to address both types.

Module 3

- Describe the structures and processes that foster healthy, safe, and supportive learning environments.
- Assess the processes and structures already in place to create a healthy, safe, and supportive learning environment in your school or district.
- Design next steps for improving the learning environment in your school.

Module 4

- Investigate the key factors that improve student learning in high-poverty schools.
- Define the relationship between student learning and professional learning.
- Design actions you could take to ensure the work focuses on improving student, professional, and system learning.

Module 5

- Identify structures and processes for building leadership capacity (e.g., developing and strategically using the capabilities of educators, students, families, and caregivers) in high-poverty schools.
- Examine the way you currently manage resources (e.g., time, money, people, and data).
- Determine ways to improve how you use resources to build leadership capacity through-out your school.

Module 6

- Examine practices that encourage partnerships with parents and families or caregivers in supporting their children's education.
- Design ways to authentically engage parents, families, and the community in your school.
- Analyze your experiences with parent, family, and community engagement.

Module 1	**Poverty and Our Moral Responsibility**
	• Module Welcome
	• Survey: What Do You Know and Believe About Poverty?
	• Reading 1: How Do We Talk About Poverty?
	• Reading 2: Confronting Common Myths
	• Reading 3: The Sanctuary of School and How School Taught Me I Was Poor
	• Video: North Godwin Elementary School
	• Knowledge Check
	• Application 1: Examine Your Beliefs and Assumptions
	• Application 2: Comparing Settings
	• Post-Module Reflection
Module 2	**Whose Problem Is Poverty?**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: What Can Schools Do to Address Poverty?
	• Reading 2: Poverty and Education
	• Reading 3: *Educational Leadership*—Overcoming the Challenges of Poverty
	• Video: How Can Schools Help?
	• Knowledge Check
	• Application 1: Exploring Your Data
	• Application 2: What Can You Do to Address Poverty?
	• Post-Module Reflection

Module 3	**Healthy, Safe, and Supportive Learning Environments**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: How Does Poverty Influence Learning?
	• Video 1: A Safe Place to Be
	• Reading 2: Fostering a Healthy, Safe, and Supportive Learning Environment
	• Video 2: Creating Supportive Learning Environments
	• Reading 3: Making Changes and Taking Action
	• Knowledge Check
	• Application 1: Fostering a Healthy, Safe, and Supportive Learning Environment
	• Application 2: Action Planning
	• Post-Module Reflection
Module 4	**Student, Professional, and System Learning**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: Focusing on Student, Professional, and System Learning: HP/HP Schools *Eliminate* What Doesn't Work
	• Video 1: Professional Learning at Pass Christian Middle School
	• Reading 2: Focusing on Student, Professional, and System Learning: How HP/HP Schools Do It
	• Video 2: Focusing on Student and Professional Learning
	• Video 3: Focusing on System Learning
	• Knowledge Check
	• Application 1: Evidence of Good Teaching
	• Application 2: Focusing on Student, Professional, and System-Level Learning
	• Post-Module Reflection

Module 5	**Building Leadership Capacity**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: Building Leadership Capacity
	• Reading 2: Is Your School Asking the Right Questions About Poverty?
	• Video 1: Awash in Data
	• Reading 3: *Educational Leadership*—Making Refugee Students Welcome
	• Video 2: Teacher and Student Leadership
	• Video 3: Learning Labs
	• Knowledge Check
	• Application 1: Building Leadership Capacity
	• Application 2: Identifying Leadership
	• Post-Module Reflection
Module 6	**Engaging Parents, Families, and the Community**
	• Module Welcome
	• Reading 1: Three Ways to Engage Parents in High-Poverty Settings
	• Reading 2: Hold the Line: Engagement Practices that Welcome Families in Poverty
	• Reading 3: *Educational Leadership*—Would You Step Through My Door?
	• Reading 4: Do We Engage Parents, Families, and the Community?
	• Video: Reaching Out and Supporting Families
	• Knowledge Check
	• Application 1: Building Relational Trust
	• Application 2: Action Planning
	• Post-Module Reflection

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