

The Paradigm Shift

Three powerful ideas are currently altering education as we know it:

1. Results-Driven Education: which judges success not by the classes a student attends, or the grades they receive, or the scores they make on a norm-referenced test,

But rather by what they actually know and can do as a result of their time in school.

(All students can acquire the school's valued outcomes provided they are given sufficient time and appropriate instruction.)

Our Goal:

Improve student learning and performance.

2. Systems Thinking: which recognizes the complex, interdependent, interrelationships among the various people of the "system", or school community.

Considering how the people of the 'system' constantly influence one another to hinder or help improvement efforts must be addressed.

(People changing changes organizations; the lesson is to find those strategies that are most likely to mobilize large numbers of people in new directions)

Our Goal:

Look for those strategies that can positively increase professional learning and thus, improve student learning and performance.

3. Constructivism: theory of learning based on the fact that learners build knowledge structures rather than "take in" information from teachers. In this theory, knowledge is not simply transmitted from teacher to student, **but instead,** is "constructed" in the mind of the learner.

("Teaching" becomes more modeling appropriate behavior, guiding student activities, providing appropriate examples, facilitating learning.)

Our Goal:

Provide sufficient learning experiences/ opportunities by focusing on the CONTEXT for learning.

(The "HOW" students learn rather than the "WHAT")