New Paradigm Schools: A National Survey-Based Search

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Overview

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Background

Problem
The need for paradigm change in education
The need for examples of schools that have undergone such change

Purpose of this study
To identify and describe schools that exhibit many characteristics of the new paradigm

Method

Criteria for Selecting Schools (email):
Student progress is based on individual mastery as opposed to the use of traditional A-F grades or percentage assessments, and report cards track attainments.

Every student has a personal learning plan.
Grouping for learning is based on attainments and learning-plan goals.

Process for Identifying Schools
Email & Online survey:
- All Change Division members
- Duffy Reports announcement

Process for Collecting Information
An online form to fill out
Information on their website (vague and general)
Follow-up phone calls to clarify and elaborate

Results

12 schools have been nominated so far

Most exciting one is Minnesota New Country School
EdVisions
Doug Thomas, Executive Director
Results

Minnesota New Country School
A teacher-owned public charter school
Founded in 1994
Has about 110 students across grades 6-12
Received a $4 million replication grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to form EdVisions
EdVisions has now helped more than 40 schools to adopt the MNCS model.

EdVisions Design Essentials Checklist:

Information: http://www.newcountryschool.com/

Discussion

Questions? Comments?