The districts composing the network hold a common commitment to identifying the essential elements of an education for the 21st century. The Model Schools Network To further this goal, in 1987 the American Forum began working to develop a comprehensive school improvement project rooted in global education. As an outgrowth of the report of the National Commission on Global Education, we are assembling a "model schools" network. In selected communities throughout the U.S., districts are forming partnerships among local schools and their communities, institutions of higher education, and state agencies to make a long-term effort for school improvement and program development.

The districts composing the network hold a common commitment to identifying the essential elements of an education for the 21st century, using our framework for global education as a starting point. The framework identifies four domains of student inquiry for which all school subjects should be accountable (see "Four Domains of Student Inquiry").

The American Forum's role in the network is to link school districts engaged in remodeling their programs and to support them in infusing the essential elements into all areas of the K-12 curriculum. Several of the districts have held community forums where parents, teachers, and the public discussed the role of schools in the context of local, national, and global realities. These districts are using those forums as the basis for developing curricular blueprints, setting program priorities, forming plans for staff development, and developing structures and resources for implementation.

The network is based on a shared conviction that the time is ripe to integrate concerns about both substance and school structures in the development of "model" programs. As the network matures, we hope to be able to report on the progress of schools where global education has been set as the highest priority—

Educational Futurists Network

If you would like to join ASCD’s Educational Futurists Network, contact:

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