

Task: Educational Platforms
[as excerpted from the SDP Manual]

Task Level: Individual Associate

Completion Date(s)

This task is to be completed twice during the year. Two weeks prior to the Orientation Session in January and two weeks prior to the Culminating Session in November, your completed platforms should be emailed to:

- Your team faculty member(s)
- The SDP Program Administrator
- The SUNY Oswego faculty member for your region

Note: Enough printed copies should be brought to the Orientation Session for your team colleagues and team faculty members.

Objectives

Your first set of platforms, due in January, will introduce you to the platform-writing process and will serve as a baseline for your year's (and life's) work; the second, due toward the end of the program, will indicate the growth and development of your views over the course of the year. Platform writing is a reflective, thinking process, intended to promote clarity, substance, and coherence in one's thought and expression. By sharing platforms with teams and faculty, and receiving feedback, you will enlarge and refine your understandings. Finally, crafting educational platforms will help prepare you for superintendency interviews.

Product and/or Forum for Presentation

In addition to emailing platforms ahead of time, associates will share their initial platforms with their teams at the January Orientation for discussion of the views and rationales they offer, and of similarities and differences among platforms of all team members. Such dialogues may and should continue at weekly team meetings. Team faculty will guide the dialogues so as to focus on associates' own views.

In addition, the SUNY Oswego faculty member assigned to your region will provide individualized email feedback on both your first and second platforms.

Specific Directions

Provide a written (platform) statement of your current understandings of the superintendent's role with respect to each of the topics listed below. Describe and explain your thoughts about the superintendent's relationship with each of the topics, along with whatever principles, approaches, and/or goals you feel the superintendent should apply to that relationship.

- The Superintendent and Instructional Leadership
- Organizational Leadership of the Superintendent
- The Superintendent and Political Leadership
- The Superintendent and Strategic Leadership
- Roles -The Superintendent and the School Board
- The Superintendent and the Community
- The Superintendent's Personal and Family Life

- School Finance and the Superintendent
- Personnel Management from the Superintendent's Perspective
- The Teacher's Association and the Superintendent

Your platforms should be in paragraph form (not bulleted) so as to provide background, context, rationale, and explanation in a coherent flow of thought. They should be concise and general, but thorough enough to give yourself and others a clear sense of how you see the superintendent's role. Probably one double spaced page per platform statement will suffice, but you should build length around your thoughts rather than building your thoughts around a specified length.

Team Faculty Responsibilities

Team faculty will receive and review emailed platforms. Team faculty will also promote dialogues through questions that elicit associates' insights, understandings, and reasoning, and will refrain (at least initially) from injecting their own views.

Notes

The SDP Program Administrator will record completion of platform statements at both the outset and culmination of the program.