

Schools for the Future

Fact Sheet

Mission: Schools for the Future is a public high school model with a mission of enabling students who have been previously retained at least twice and who have severe academic skill gaps, successfully graduate from high school within 3-5 years, ready for college and further career training – without the need for remediation.

Background: Through a special initiative of the School & Main Institute, SFF was founded and is led by Ephraim Weisstein. He also developed the nationally recognized Diploma Plus model. SFF aspires to grow into a national network that can contribute to transforming the American high school. SFF is funded by the Carnegie Corporation and the Mott and Noyce Foundations.

The first SFF Academy opened in Jacksonville, FLA in August 2011 to 102 students. Through a partnership agreement with Black Family Development and CEO Alice Thompson, the Detroit Academy will be the second SFF school launched and is scheduled to open September 2012.

Curriculum: Students follow a highly engaging and rigorous academic and youth development program that helps them progress toward graduation at their own pace. Schools for the Future blends highly targeted classroom instruction with a full range of online and community-based learning opportunities designed to build developmental skills and higher order thinking simultaneously. Students become increasingly independent as they complete community-based projects, online courses, and dual enrollment college courses. Each student is issued a mobile device with connectivity to ensure that they are able to learn 24/7, in and out of school.

Student Body: Middle school students in the Detroit area aged 14-17 who have been retained at least twice.

Contact: Ephraim Weisstein at eweisstein@schools4future.org