

The IDEA Partnership

National Association of State Directors of Special Education
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 320
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

1-877-IDEA-INFo (1-877-433-2463) email: partnership@nasdse.org



Professional Development/Adult Learning Communities of Practice:
National Meeting for Member States
March 20-21, 2006

Social Network Analysis Activity----Handout

Social Network Analysis

** Presented by Jeffery Schuyler

What is Social Network Analysis (SNA)?

The identification and analysis of the network of relationships within or among individuals or groups

How does SNA fit with what we want to achieve?

Helps to illustrate how a network is functioning, including communication and knowledge flow, how and with whom do we operate, and to explain how we are working to achieve our goals.

SNA can help describe the strategy used to get performance results. *Fifth of Larry's questions.*

SNA: The Basics

Node—group or person

Link—connection between a group or person; the type of link can indicate type or frequency of connection

Hub—group or person with many links

Clique—subgroup within network

Handout: Introduction to SNA by Valdis Krebs

Small Group Activity: “Map your current network” *Flip charts, markers, round sticky notes*

1. Name your network *Write at top of flip chart*
2. Identify the goal of your network. What are you trying to achieve? *Write goal below network name*
3. Identify the nodes of the network *Write names on stickies*
4. Arrange nodes in the network *Closer together means stronger communication*

The IDEA Partnership

National Association of State Directors of Special Education
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 320
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

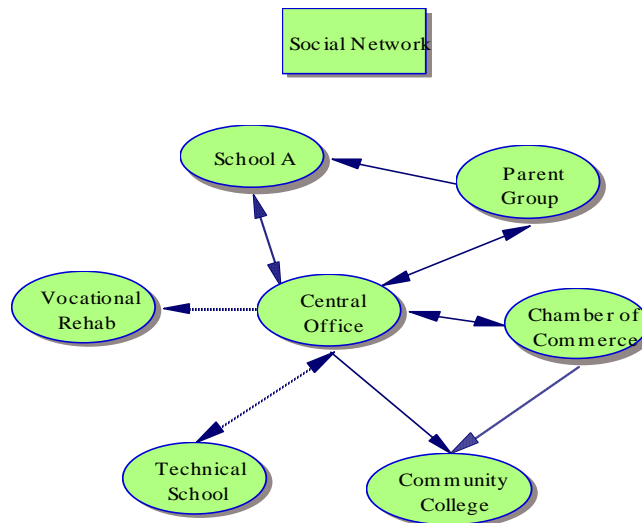
1-877-IDEA-INFo (1-877-433-2463) email: partnership@nasdse.org



5. Draw links among nodes *Can use various colors or types of lines to indicate degrees of connectedness*
6. Identify hub or hubs *Note hubs*
7. Identify how the network is helping you to achieve your goal?
8. How can the network be better to help you achieve goals? *Add nodes or links that would identify a better network.*

Example

Transition Group—School A, Central Office, VR, College, Tech School, Parent Group. Lines = share information, share cost, share PD. Information = dotted line. PD = solid line. Cost = dashed line. Arrows determine direction of flow.



For more information on Social Network Analysis:

Valdis Krebs

<http://www.insna.org/>

Social Network Analysis in Program Evaluation, Durland & Fredericks, Eds. New Dimensions for Evaluation, Fall 2005.