



**EDLE 5653 Building Collaborative
School Communities for All Learners
Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education
EDLE 5653 X10
Fall 2026**

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course examines the characteristics and communication needs of collaborative learning communities. The primary focus is to equip organizational leaders with the knowledge and skills to recognize, implement, and support effective programs that promote success for all students.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- N/A- materials will be provided.

Instructor Support

The best way to contact me is by email. I usually respond within 24 hours, though it may take a little longer on holidays or weekends. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I will respond via email, or we can schedule a phone call.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Objectives

1. Analyze the strengths, needs, relationships, and participation patterns of a school community using multiple sources of information.

2. Apply learner-centered leadership competencies to school vision, organizational culture, stakeholder relationships, and continuous improvement.
3. Develop productive two-way communication and shared-responsibility structures with students, families, staff, and community partners.
4. Evaluate proposed uses of artificial intelligence in educational leadership for educational value, feasibility, privacy, transparency, human oversight, and stakeholder impact.
5. Develop professional-learning and change-management strategies that prepare staff and stakeholders for responsible innovation.
6. Apply ethical, legal, and professional judgment to leadership scenarios involving student support, technology, data, communication, and organizational change.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using other people's source material, either published or unpublished, without following accepted techniques for crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's own). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

Grading

Course Grade – Grades for this course will be assigned as follows:

Assignments	Weight	Points
Quizzes: 6 at 50 points	30%	300
Discussion Posts: 6 at 80 points	48%	480
Final Assignment	22%	220
Total	100%	1000

Reading, Discussion, and Assignment Schedule Fall 2026

Dates	Module	Readings / Media	Assignments Due
Aug 24 – Sept 6	Module 1	Estévez (2026) <i>Did You Know 2026</i>	Discussion Post 1, Quiz 1 Complete the initial post by Sept 1 and respond to 2 classmates by Sept 6.
Sept 7 – Sept 20	Module 2	Richardson & Khawaja (2025)	Discussion Post 2, Quiz 2
Sept 21 – Oct 4	Module 3	Sposato (2024)	Discussion Post 3, Quiz 3
Oct 5 – Oct 18	Module 4	Sposato (2025)	Discussion Post 4, Quiz 4
Oct 19 – Nov 1	Module 5	Williamson (2024)	Discussion Post 5, Quiz 5
Nov 2 – Nov 15	Module 6	Williamson (2022)	Discussion Post 6, Quiz 6
Nov 16 – Dec 4	Final Assignment	Integrative Analysis (all sources)	Final Assignment Due Dec 4

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: Aug 27, 2026

Deadline to file for graduation: Sept 21, 2026, for December Graduates

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W": Nov 23, 2026

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program, as it is the primary source of communication for assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log in to [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or your instructor.

Attendance/Online Participation

Because this is an online course, attendance will be recorded through your participation in discussions and the submission of assignments. Failure to submit three (3) assignments on time and/or submission of incomplete assignments are considered evidence of lack of dependability and are taken seriously. Candidates will receive a grade of F on the third missing or incomplete assignment based upon the discretion of Dr. Robles.

Expectations for Written Work

- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are expected on all written assignments (although web discussions are not held to the high standard of a research project or other written assignment).
- Written assignments should be done in Microsoft Word and turned in as an attachment on D2L.
- Discussions should be completed within the D2L discussion space and NOT uploaded as an attachment.
- Due dates should be honored in order to receive the highest grade.
- When referring to the ideas of others, works should be cited using the APA format.

AI / Chat GPT

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be a valuable tool in academic writing, offering support with brainstorming, organization, and clarity; however, it must be used ethically, accurately, and responsibly. In a collegiate environment, all students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity and develop their own voice in writing. Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are central to this course's learning outcomes, all writing assignments must be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for success in a competitive workplace.

While AI tools can guide learning and improve communication, they should never replace a student's original work. Copying and pasting directly from AI tools or submitting AI-generated content as your own constitutes plagiarism and will not be tolerated.

In summary, you may type a question into ChatGPT, but you may not copy and paste its response and turn it in as your own. If you use ChatGPT, you must disclose this somewhere in your assignment. If you use ChatGPT or any AI, please use it ethically, accurately, and in useful ways. Ultimately, academic work should reflect your own thinking and writing.

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks, or other life necessities- resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the [Office of Student Affairs](#): Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the 'Americans with Disabilities

Act', with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Additional Course and University Information

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Our online classes can be accessed from any computer connected to the internet. If you have technical difficulties in the course, a student helpdesk is also available. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to liability and resource limitations; however, they can help you connect to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Inclement Weather

Fully online courses will continue as scheduled. Students may contact the professor to request assignment extensions if severe weather conditions affect their ability to meet deadlines.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in

addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University MSU Catalog

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

References

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<https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2025.1537055>
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- Sposato, M. (2025). Artificial intelligence in educational leadership: A comprehensive taxonomy and future directions. *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education*, 22, Article 20.
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<https://codeactsineducation.wordpress.com/2022/03/17/google-magic/>