New American Schools, or NAS (known as New American Schools Development Corporation from 1991 to 1995), is a private nonprofit corporation that was created in conjunction with President Bush’s America 2000 initiative. NAS was formed to fund efforts to develop and disseminate whole-school designs for elementary and secondary schools. Its original goal was to ensure that these designs, which presumably offer more-effective educational programs than “typical schools,” were adopted in schools across the country so as to dramatically improve student performance. Since its inception, NAS has completed a development phase, a demonstration phase, and a scale-up phase.

During these phases (1992–2000) RAND provided analytic support to NAS. This book summarizes the findings from the RAND program of analysis. It is targeted toward educational policymakers interested in comprehensive school reform as well as others interested in improving the implementation of reform efforts in local governmental bureaucracies. This book should be of interest to anyone who wants to better understand the expanding area of whole-school school reform and its effects on teaching and learning within high-stakes accountability environments.

The RAND assessment of NAS schools has spanned several years. To date, RAND studies about New American Schools include:


Funding Comprehensive School Reform, by Brent R. Keltner, 1998 (IP-175-EDU).


