Problem Identification

# Problem Statement Formation

How can the Newark Public Schools improve achievement by focusing on SMART goals based on data from other achieving and underachieving districts.

# Context

The Newark Public Schools have had trouble in the past achieving academic success and improving graduation rates. There are many socioeconomic factors involved in this, but I would like to focus on goals that are more attainable than economic reform or welfare that will improve both graduation rate and student achievement.

# Criteria for Success

The Newark Public Schools will experience a rise in both achievement and graduation rates within 5 years.

# Constraints

The socioeconomic situation and the Title I status of the Newark Public Schools limits the amount of change that the district can experience in reforming their school programs. Unless governmental oversight and local programming can work together, a rise in graduation rate and overall achievement will be very difficult.

# Stakeholders

The NPS Board of Education, Superintendent Roger Leon, and the families of the students enrolled in the NPS system.

# Data Sources

US Census and the Department of Education