

The Condition of *Leadership & Responsibility* is about sharing your ideas, making your own decisions, and accepting responsibility for your choices.

PIECES OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Every student must realize they can be a leader. Many younger students only view student leadership as a particular position such as the captain of a team, student council president, or the lead in a school play. Students should be exposed to the expansive nature of what it means to be a leader!



Every student must be presented with opportunities to be a leader. Opportunities exist all around us: helping peers, supporting teachers, sharing ideas, etc. Students should recognize that when they take action in these situations, they are being leaders!



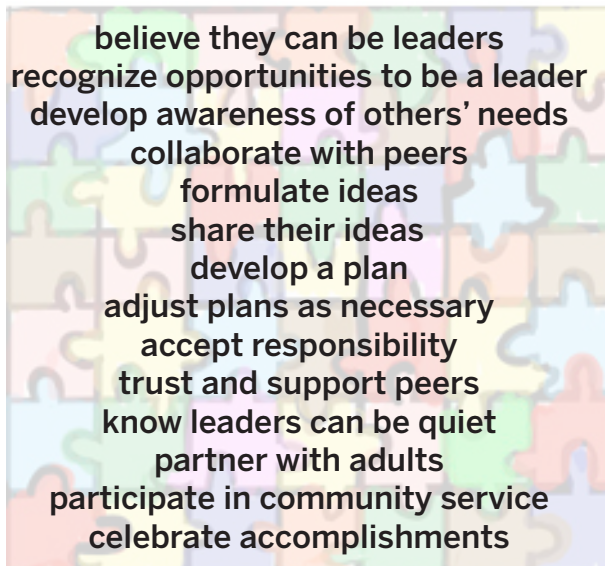
Every student must understand what it means to be responsible for what they say and do. At its core, student leadership requires students to not only make decisions, but also understand that it is up to them to act on their ideas.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

Teacher Checklist for Fostering Student Leadership

- Leadership skills are intentionally taught to all students.
- Small, everyday leadership opportunities are available to all students.
- Verbal and nonverbal opportunities to share ideas are provided.
- Students who are quiet, introverted, or have speech-related disabilities are provided

Leadership means all students ...



believe they can be leaders
recognize opportunities to be a leader
develop awareness of others' needs
collaborate with peers
formulate ideas
share their ideas
develop a plan
adjust plans as necessary
accept responsibility
trust and support peers
know leaders can be quiet
partner with adults
participate in community service
celebrate accomplishments

Ask yourself...

1. What new leadership roles can I develop in my classroom? Leadership can be as simple as new opportunities for students to make decisions or as complex as a student presenting their school improvement ideas.
2. What opportunities do my students have to learn about classroom needs, school needs, and community needs? An important component of student leadership is an awareness of the needs of those around you and deciding how to help.
3. What personal learning experiences—positive and challenging—can I share with my students? Students need examples and ongoing exposure to leadership opportunities in order to recognize and understand all of the leadership possibilities available to them.
4. What leadership advice can older students share with my students? Sometimes the best advice comes from students only a few years older.
5. What ways do I assess the leadership skills and opportunities for every student? How is this information part of each student's transition to the next grade level? Leadership skills are cumulative, and students should be able to develop and refine their skills as they progress through school.



To support student leadership for individuals:

- Help students realize that every time they make a productive decision, they are being leaders themselves and modeling for others.
- Encourage students to do the right thing and acknowledge that is what leaders do.

To support student leadership in the classroom:

- Allow students to make small and big decisions. Some students might need to start with feeling good about making any decision at all.
- Use the words leadership and responsibility frequently in the classroom. Students need to hear adults recognizing everyday actions and informal positions as examples of leadership.

To support student leadership in the school:

- Develop unique opportunities for hesitant students to work with adults.
- Celebrate when students accept responsibility for actions such as picking up trash or including others at recess. Leaders do kind things to help others.

To support student leadership in the community:

- Invite community leaders to share their experiences.
- Acknowledge student leaders outside of school.

CHECKING FOR MISSING PIECES

Make sure all students ...

- Can define student leadership and give examples.
- View themselves as leaders.
- Think about others when they make decisions.
- Feel confident sharing ideas.
- Know how to set a goal and make plans to reach that goal.

