

Share with colleagues and then commit to making at least three changes in your practice.



What Does it Look Like When Teachers Foster Leadership & Responsibility?

- Students understand academic and social expectations.
- Student council represents a diverse student body and has a genuine voice in decision making.
- Students are part of the decision-making process at the classroom and school level.
- Students' voices and ideas are valued and utilized.
- There is an overall belief that students can be good decision makers.
- Leadership roles are available for all students.
- There is a can-do spirit in the school.
- Students and teachers solve problems together.

Best Classroom Practices Related to Leadership & Responsibility

- Teach leadership skills.
- Give students opportunities to be decision makers in the classroom.
- Create a school government that is not a popularity contest.
- Find leadership opportunities for all students in the school.
- Solicit and listen to student ideas, concerns, and opinions.
- Discuss the responsibilities that are involved in being a leader.
- Include students on schoolwide committees.
- Share your belief in the potential of all the students you teach.
- Invite community leaders into your class to share their leadership experiences and lessons.

Leader's Role in Promoting Leadership & Responsibility for Students

- Ask for student input on schoolwide issues; honor their input.
- Use student voice to improve the school.
- Meet with student groups on a regular basis.
- Attend student council meetings.
- Create opportunities for students to be involved in districtwide decisions.
- Be a leadership role model for students.
- Give students meaningful responsibilities.
- Ensure that the student council represents the student body and that being a member is not a popularity contest.
- Develop ways for all students to learn leadership skills.
- Ask students to participate in appropriate grade-level or department meetings.
- Be transparent about your decision-making process.
- Share with students what you have learned about being a leader—good and bad.
- Openly and honestly take responsibility for the effective, and less-than-effective, decisions you make.
- Include students on hiring committees.

Developing Strategies and Tactics

To enhance Leadership & Responsibility in your classroom, respond to the following prompts, then act.

1. To make sure all students learn leadership skills, I will . . .
2. To provide leadership opportunities for all students, I will . . .
3. To make students' voices an integral component of classroom learning, I will . . .
4. To better help students be conscientious decision makers, I will . . .
5. To help students feel confident sharing their opinions and ideas, I will . . .
6. To include students on grade level or department committees, I will . . .
7. To make student council more representative of all students, I will . . .
8. To encourage student leadership and responsible behavior, I will . . .

