

Student as Leaders

(Student Agency)



Student Agency is a combination of mindsets and learning strategies that support acquisition of the necessary **knowledge, skills, and dispositions** to advance achievement. Students must know and apply rigorous content across multiple disciplines, including (1) strategies to engage in higher-order thinking, (2) meaningful interactions with the world around them, and (3) planning for the future. Finally, students must develop the socio-emotional behaviors associated with success (Council of Chief State School Officers, 2013).

What It Is and What It Means

The student knows him/herself well and has the will and ability to make interdependent and appropriate personal and (professional) career decisions. The learner takes charge of his/her learning.

Schools promote student agency through curriculum, instruction, and assessment delivery models that prompt students to define their learning goals, relate to real-life experiences, and encourage thinking about their own thinking (i.e., metacognition). Student agency is broader than a collection of strategies; it is a way of perceiving the learners, establishing encouraging and respectful learning systems, and developing environments that promote and sustain their academic and non-academic growth.

What This Is Not

- Developing Student Agency is not unintentional: Teachers intentionally plan and embed strategies.
- Students as Leaders is not a character education model or a behavior management system.
- Students as Leaders is not a teacher centered classroom.

Focus Questions

1. Does high trust exist in the school as a whole and in the classrooms?
2. What mindset do educators cultivate in the school?
3. How can adopting *The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People* and encouraging metacognition provide strategies for Student Agency?
4. Are empowerment opportunities available to all students through Students as Leaders opportunities?



Resources

(Links: Ctrl+Click to access websites)

[Mindsets and Student Agency](#)

[Learner Agency](#)

[Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions](#)

[Personalized Learning](#)

[Building Student Agency](#)

[Student Agency](#)

[Learning About Competency Education](#)

References

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