

What is The Leader in Me?



A Whole-School Transformation Process

The Leader in Me is FranklinCovey's whole school transformation process. It teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

Started by Educators



In an effort to turn around her failing school, Muriel Summers, Principal of A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, N.C., identified leadership as her school magnet theme based on community feedback. She approached FranklinCovey as a partner in designing, developing and implementing a leadership model for her school, which drew on *The 7 Habits* and also incorporated Baldrige quality tools and other educational best practices.

Within a few years, A.B. Combs experienced what they viewed as a complete turnaround, ultimately being named #1 Magnet School in the U.S., twice.

Teaching Students 21st Century Leadership and Life Skills

When Principal Muriel Summers asked parents and business leaders what they wanted in their schools, what she heard reinforced what most people believe—that our schools should not merely be focused on improving test scores, but should provide opportunities for students to develop their full potential.

- Leadership
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Problem Solving
- Adaptability
- Communication
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Creativity
- Cross-Cultural Skills
- Teamwork

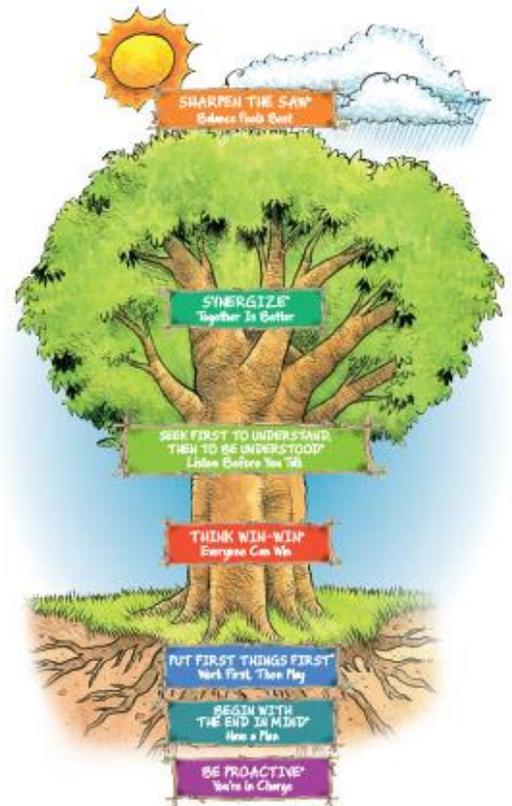


Using Best-Practices and Universal Principles

The Leader in Me is aligned with best-in-class content and concepts practiced by global education thought leaders. It provides a logical, sequential and balanced process to help schools proactively design the culture that reflects their vision of the ideal school.

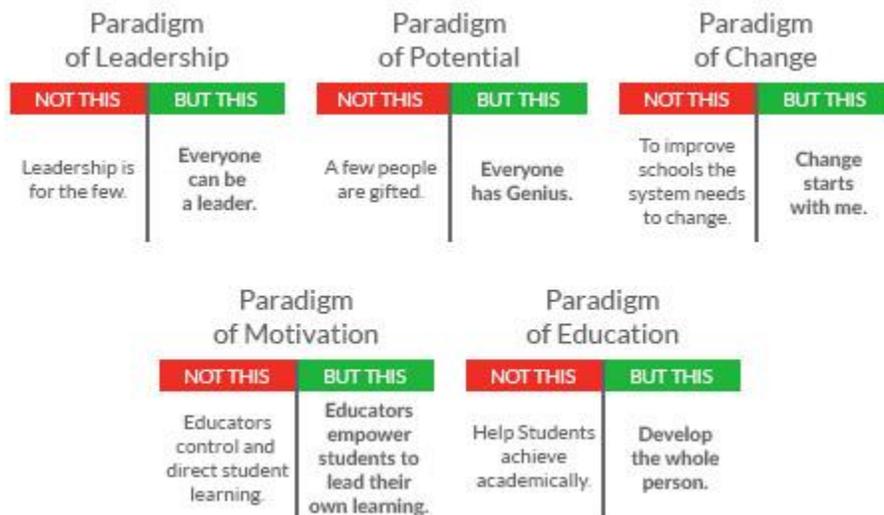
Content from *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* is a key component of the overall *The Leader in Me* process. *The 7 Habits* is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal and interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal, which are secular in nature and common to all people and cultures.

The Leader in Me is also aligned to many national and state academic standards, including Common Core standards. The process teaches students the skills needed for academic success in any setting. These skills include critical thinking, goal setting, listening and speaking, self-directed learning, presentation-making and the ability to work in groups.



And a New Mindset

Instead of seeing children through the lens of a normal distribution curve—some kids are naturally smart and others are not—*The Leader in Me* paradigm sees that every child is capable, every child is a leader. This paradigm changes everything.



Expanding Around the Globe



What would be possible if your school were filled with students who were responsible, who showed initiative, who were creative, who knew how to set goals and meet them, who got along with people of various backgrounds and cultures, and who could resolve conflicts and solve problems?

Since its official launch in 2009, over 2,000 public, private, charter, and magnet schools across 35 countries have adopted *The Leader in Me* process.

How is it different?

A Different Paradigm - Instead of seeing children through the lens of a normal distribution curve—some kids are smart and some less smart—*The Leader in Me* paradigm sees that every child is capable, every child is a leader. This paradigm changes everything.

From the Inside Out - *Leader in Me* Schools must first get their own teachers on the same page and improve the climate among their staff before they can make it come alive with the students. They can't expect changes in their students until they have changed themselves. As the great educator Roland S. Barth puts it, "The nature of the relationships among the adults who inhabit a school has more to do with its quality and character, and with the accomplishments of its pupils, than any other factor." This model is just as much about the adults as it is the children. It's inside out—first teachers, then students, and then parents.

A Common Language—The 7 Habits - When everyone—teachers, students, and parents—begin using the same language, you get a compound-interest effect that is truly amazing. The 7 Habits create that common language. For example, what a difference it makes when everyone knows what it means to "put first things first" or to "seek first to understand" or to "be proactive." *Leader in Me* Schools often find their students using the language among themselves and with their parents: "I need to put first things first and do my homework before I play"; "I should have thought win-win"; or "Dad, you're being reactive."

Implementation Is Ubiquitous - *The Leader in Me* is not an event and it's not a curriculum; it's ubiquitous leadership development—meaning everywhere and all the time. Instead of "teaching leadership every Tuesday at 1 p.m.," educators use an integrated approach and make leadership training part of everything they do. So the model impacts everything—the traditions, events, organization, culture, instructional methodologies, and curriculum of the school. But as teachers will tell you, "It's not doing one more thing; it's doing what you're already doing in a better way."

“We only get one chance to prepare children for a world none of us can possibly predict, what are we going to do with that one chance?”

- Principal Muriel Summers, A.B. Combs Elementary