

Lead From the Seat You're In

How Teachers of Color Can Step Into Leadership

As schools face increasingly more complex challenges, there has never been a more critical time for teachers of color to amplify their impact on students, elevate diverse voices and teacher perspectives, and create lasting solutions by stepping into more leadership. Here are four proven ways you can start leading today.



Team to Impact Change

School leadership is a team sport. Help direct the solutions by building your leadership capacity and leaning into the collective problem-solving power of your peers.

- **Elevate diverse student and teacher perspectives as part of your school's instructional leadership team**
- **Bring your voice to grade level or teacher teams and help shape decisions that directly impact learning and teaching**
- **Champion more equitable solutions when school or teacher teams analyze school data**



Facilitate Honest and Open Conversations

When difficult situations arise—and they will arise, no matter the scale—effective leaders don't shy away from having meaningful, open conversations. You can do the same.

- **Learn new skills in how to maintain open dialogues with colleagues**
- **Seek feedback as you practice facilitating open and honest conversations**
- **Continuously reflect on your own performance and adapt moving forward**



Cultivate a Growth Mindset

There is no such thing as a perfect teacher or a perfect leader. A growth mindset is the belief that your success is determined by the amount of hard work and effort you put into developing your skills.

- **Accept that there are always areas where you can improve, learn, and grow**
- **Pursue opportunities for coaching and support to help you improve in those areas**
- **Hone your strengths and feel empowered on your leadership journey**



Build a Strong Network

Making change happen in schools is never easy. Having a strong support system in which to accomplish the work is incredibly important for any leader, especially a leader of color.

- **Listen purposefully to your peers and show interest in classrooms outside of your own**
- **Find a mentor (or two) who has the qualities you want to emulate or grow in yourself**
- **Seek out in-person or online communities that support educators and leaders of color**

Become the Change You Want to See

Every inspirational leader started out as an aspiring leader.

If you're thinking about moving into a principal role, make sure you are well-versed in the leadership practices you will need to be a successful leader now, and for years to come.

Answer the call to lead today.

Our National Aspiring Principals Fellowship is an online principal preparation and master's degree program designed to train the next generation of equity-focused school leaders who better reflect the communities they serve.

Explore The Fellowship

www.fellowship.newleaders.org/prospective-students/home