

Discussion Paper: Stewardship for the Future of All Children

Introduction

Stewardship for the Future of All Children is the foundation of the Spirit of Leadership. This competency reflects the moral imperative of school district leaders to act with care, courage, and foresight to nurture a future where all children feel secure in their identity, connected to others, and responsible for the land and environment. Leaders are called not only to provide high-quality education but also to model and build a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society.

At its heart, stewardship means embracing leadership as a responsibility that extends beyond today's classrooms—it requires shaping environments where each child can thrive academically, socially, emotionally, and ethically. It demands leaders intentionally create spaces of belonging, respect diverse identities, and lift others up with compassion, humility, and integrity. Stewardship also draws on Indigenous teachings, recognizing the interconnectedness of self, land, sea, and sky, and honoring the wisdom of ancestors for future generations.

Considerations for Leaders

1. Lead Self

- Develop a deep, critical awareness of one's own identity, strengths, and limitations.
- Model humility, self-care, and self-respect as foundational leadership behaviors.

2. Lead Teams

- Empower colleagues to express and celebrate their diverse identities.
- Actively model ethical leadership and champion initiatives that promote equity, diversity, inclusion, decolonization, and Indigenization.

3. Lead Organizations

- Build and sustain systems rooted in Universal Design for Learning that honor diverse learners.
- Create structures that position the district as a leader in social justice and sustainability, ensuring students graduate with the skills and values to pursue justice and environmental stewardship.
- Embed sustainability practices across all district operations, empowering both staff and students to reduce environmental impact and embrace sustainable futures.

Ultimately, Stewardship for the Future of All Children is about courageous leadership that safeguards and strengthens the social, cultural, and environmental fabric of our communities, ensuring a better future for generations to come.

Reflective Questions for Leaders and Teams

1. How are we actively supporting each child's development of a secure identity, sense of belonging, and connection to the land and others?
2. In what ways are we modeling and promoting justice, equity, and inclusion in both our classrooms and district practices?
3. Are our systems and decisions reducing our environmental impact and teaching students to be stewards of sustainability?
4. How do our daily actions reflect humility, care, and respect for the diverse stories and identities of those we serve?