

Define Leadership - especially in the context of an educational setting.

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it." — Dwight D. Eisenhower

Eisenhower's definition of leadership is veraciously on the mark, particularly in the context of an educational setting. As educators, we work diligently to engage and motivate students so they want to learn, read, think critically, create, collaborate, and ultimately become life-long learners and leaders. This is no easy feat. Yet when a child begs for more reading time, dives enthusiastically into a research project, or makes a cross-curriculum connection that genuinely excites them, I guarantee a teacher is smiling! Similarly, effective educational administrators purposefully and deliberately seek to create a climate and culture that promotes and perpetuates ongoing learning and growth of students and teachers alike. According to James McGregor Burns' concept of *Transformational Leadership*, "The transformational leader looks for potential motives in followers, seeks to satisfy higher needs, and engages the full person of the follower." (p 208) I agree wholeheartedly that educational leadership involves motivation, empowerment, and genuine concern and commitment to the growth of the whole person, whether student or staff.

To create a transformational environment within an educational setting, effective leaders establish and maintain several vital components. First and foremost, leadership is evident in a school that shares a moral purpose and vision. This vision and purpose must drive the mission. Therefore, it is not enough for a leader to have a moral purpose; she must express it, clarify it, and ask others to commit to it. Secondly, effective teachers and administrators continually work to develop and maintain positive relationships with students by establishing mutual respect, trust, and a safe environment for learning. The importance of relationships extends beyond the classroom. Therefore, establishing productive working-