Today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders. The better they can understand themselves and work effectively with others, the greater impact they can make on the world around them. Every day provides leadership challenges for students of all ages. Integrating leadership into classrooms and school culture enhances a student’s holistic growth.

More than a decade of CCL research with K12 schools illustrates that the most impactful leadership development is focused on building leadership capacity in all students, rather than select individuals. This research led CCL to create an evidence-based framework, Social Emotional Leadership, that describes the dimensions and attributes that comprise effective student leadership. The following illustration depicts the interrelated nature of the three dimensions of this framework:

Youth with strong social-emotional leadership are in charge of themselves and their own actions (Leading Self), and can work well with others (Leading with Others) on projects that are important to them (Changing Your World).

Higher levels of Social-Emotional Leadership are related to higher student engagement, an increased sense of belonging, and greater academic performance.

Adults can actively encourage social-emotional leadership development with students of all ages. Through developmentally appropriate experiences, youth can be introduced to key values, mindsets, and skills (collectively referred to as attributes) that will help them be more successful. The Social Emotional Leadership Attributes can be viewed here.
Tools and Resources for Developing Social-Emotional Leadership in Youth

While the offerings below can be purchased independently, for school systems, we recommend using the Leadership Indicator for Students (LIS; see below), the Social-Emotional Leadership book, and the self-directed online training program together.

Leadership Indicator for Students™ (LIS)
The LIS is a short, research-based, online CCL assessment that identifies areas in which to direct student leadership development efforts by focusing on the gaps between the leadership attributes viewed as most important and students’ strengths in those attributes. This survey is given to youth (grades 4 and up) and the adults who work with them. For maximum effect, schools and organizations can use the LIS report to select 3-4 Social-Emotional Leadership attributes on which to focus your development efforts.

Change in Students’ Social-Emotional Leadership
A follow-up survey is available so you may measure changes in students’ competencies in the Social-Emotional Leadership attributes. This report presents answers to the following three questions:

1. How have ratings of students’ competencies on the social-emotional leadership dimensions changed over time?
2. How have ratings of students’ competencies on the social-emotional leadership attributes changed over time?
3. How has motivation for student leadership development changed over time for students and teachers?

Price: Starting at $3 per survey per person (discounts available for higher volume purchases)

Social-Emotional Leadership:
A Guide for Youth Development
This book was written in response to the question, we know there are attributes we would like to focus on, now what? Within these pages are clear definitions of the 14 social-emotional leadership attributes as well as tools and strategies for engaging youth in the development of their social-emotional leadership.

Price: Books are $30 per book ($18 with an educator discount)

Social-Emotional Leadership:
Self-Directed Online Training
This cohort-based, asynchronous online learning journey guides adults through the process of incorporating Social-Emotional Leadership into their curriculum and existing programs. This interactive experience is comprised of three sequential modules (facilitating, debriefing, and integrating) and allows the opportunity for shared learning, application, and reflection. The course culminates with each participant creating and receiving peer feedback on an original lesson plan built for youth. The purchase of this platform includes the purchase of the Social-Emotional Leadership book for each user.

Price: Starting at $2,500

“As a former middle school educator and current teacher trainer (and mom), I can’t say enough about this book’s potential. We all want to help our students develop as leaders. This book shows us exactly how to do that, breaking the idea of leadership into a definitive framework of specific and attainable skills. What I’m most excited about, however, are the activities, journal prompts, and conversation starters it provides that we can use to help students develop these skills. Clear, immediately usable, and research-based, this text is everything teachers, parents, and administrators need to help kids better lead themselves, lead others, and change the world to what we need it to be.”

-Shelene Waters, Manager of Curricula, Catapult Learning