



ADOPT A SUCCESSFUL MINDSET

PLAN

Demonstrate progress and frequently celebrate victories

Strong leaders develop stakeholder trust and confidence by clearly stating their intentions and then delivering. They are also realistic and good communicators. They earn credibility by defining how achievement will be measured to hold themselves accountable. They anticipate setbacks or detours, but deal with them openly keep everyone informed, and tirelessly demonstrate commitment and dedication to progress.

LISTEN

Make listening, particularly to your board, a top priority

Take time to get to know each of them and let them get to know you. Remember that they hired you, and they are your superior. Spend time with them. Take particular care to understand their priorities, both individually and collectively. You will all be more successful if you govern your district as a team. If you make them feel appreciated and included, you will get their support.

ACCEPT

Coach yourself to handle criticism

Disparaging remarks sting when you are giving your job your all. Don't waste time blaming yourself if you made a mistake; just resolve not to make the same one again. If the criticism is baseless, take opportunities to educate people as they arise, but resist letting it get you down and avoid appearing overly sensitive and defensive. Your stakeholders will appreciate learning at some point that you have a soft side and you care what people think, but over-all they want and need a leader who is strong and confident.

BE AUTHENTIC

Remember that it's OK to be you

The job is political, and it is crucial that you use tact and diplomacy, but it is equally important that you be genuine and true to yourself. People invariably sense artificiality, and they are drawn to others who are genuine and sincere. You will develop stronger, more valid relationships and support by letting others know who you really are.

BE PATIENT

Take into account the perspectives of others

Do not forget that doing what is best for kids can create inconvenience. Most people do not embrace change, and you will never move the district forward while keeping everyone content and happy. Leadership creates tension; it's unavoidable. Overcome obstacles by helping everyone look forward. Share your vision and express your enthusiasm and dedication and make clear that you are all committed to moving ahead.

BE SOCIAL

Show yourself to be a real person

You are at the top and you are the only one in your position, yet it is imperative that you make it a point to connect with those around you. Use genuine praise liberally, but only when it is sincere. Reach out to your staff members on a personal level; learn who they are and what they do. Thank those who are doing a great job. It will pay big dividends.

BE GRATEFUL

Appreciate and honor the magnitude of your position

You have one of the most important jobs in the country. People trust in you and are accountable to you. You have earned a position where you can truly make a difference. Yet, you must be thankful and respectful. You should never forget your duty to serve the people of your community.