



Ignite Leadership

CTE-Aligned Leadership Curriculum for Sustainable Mentoring Systems

Built for Schools Ready to Move from Program → Pathway

A research-based leadership curriculum with 15+ years of implementation experience, continuously evolving to align with national leadership frameworks and modern college and workforce readiness priorities.

Why This Matters for Mentoring Schools

Research shows that **leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills** are most effective when they are **intentionally taught, practiced over time, and applied in real-world contexts**. Yet many schools *struggle to sustain* mentoring and student leadership initiatives due to staffing changes, scheduling challenges, or a lack of instructional structure.

Ignite Leadership embeds leadership development into a **credit-bearing course** within the master schedule, ensuring consistency, accountability, and long-term impact. The **curriculum builds transferable skills—communication, collaboration, adaptability, critical thinking, and personal responsibility—that benefit all students across college, career, and civic pathways**. By pairing explicit instruction with authentic application, *Ignite Leadership transforms mentoring and student leadership from a stand-alone program into a durable, scalable pathway that strengthens school culture and student readiness*.

Curriculum Overview

- **Course Length:** Full year (34 weeks)
- **Course Type:** Leadership / College & Career Readiness / CTE
- **Instructional Model:** Project-Based, Experiential Learning
- **Target Students:** Student mentors, executive mentors, student leaders, and leadership teams
- **Primary Purpose:** Develop trained student leaders who sustain mentoring and school leadership initiatives.

The 3 Pillar-Alignment Model

PILLAR 1 — Research-Aligned

Built on **evidence-based practices identified in national cross-age mentoring meta-analyses and emerging research in the highest-demand skills and competencies in post-secondary success**.

Ignite Leadership reflects the conditions shown to improve student belonging, engagement, and leadership

development, including structured mentor preparation, clear roles and expectations, ongoing adult supervision, reflective practice, and relationship-centered activities.

PILLAR 2 — Standards-Aligned

Aligned to:

- Embedded Core Content Area Standards
- National leadership and employability frameworks
- CTE and 21st century career readiness competencies

PILLAR 3 — Practice-Aligned

Refined through **15 years of real-school implementation**, Ignite Leadership functions as the **training engine** for mentoring systems by:

- Preparing student mentors before they lead
- Building capacity through clear instruction, real-world practice, and skill refinement
- Creating clear routines, roles, and expectations
- Providing consistent adult supervision and reflection structures

Assessment & Evidence of Learning

Students demonstrate mastery through:

- Performance-based leadership projects
- Facilitation and mentoring artifacts
- Reflection journals and self-assessments
- Leadership portfolio and capstone

Implementation Options for Mentoring Schools

Ignite Leadership may be offered as:

- An exploratory or introductory CTE-aligned leadership course in various pathways
- A leadership or student government elective
- An Education & Training or Family & Consumer Sciences preparatory CTE course

Models are adapted to fit **local scheduling, staffing, and approval requirements**.

Notes for District Reviewers

- *Ignite Leadership is **project-based**, allowing multiple Core Standards to be addressed through **integrated instruction**, rather than isolated lessons.*
- *Assessment focuses on **demonstrated skill growth**, consistent with CTE performance-based expectations.*

- *Course may be coded within **Education & Training, Family & Consumer Sciences, or General Leadership pathways**, depending on district preference.*