

Career Sphere of Influence

I have been a “leader” in a school in some official capacity for over 20 years. The story I told myself throughout those 20 years was that I progressively “moved up” the chain of command because I felt I had a chance to have a more profound impact on learners with each promotion. Walking the line between a career that deeply impacts kids and having a rewarding personal/family life is difficult.

1. Why did you decide on education as a career? Think back on those idealistic times. What excited you when you were a new teacher about your profession?

2. How much personal/family time are you willing to give up for your career?

3. What is it about your work that “gets you out of bed in the morning?” What excites you about coming to work?

4. How important is the career sphere of influence to you? On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest importance and 1 being the lowest importance. Why?

School Sphere of Influence

Learner-centered leaders do their work in a school. Your school, or school district, is where all of your knowledge and experience come together to make things better for kids and staff. In a lot of ways, the school is your workshop where all of the magic of relationships and knowledge come together.

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1. List the 5 things you love about your school. Think of your learners, your staff, your community, your learner's parents, and even the physical building.

2. If you had a magic wand and could make things exactly the way you want them, what would a day in the life of a learner in your school look like? Do the same for a teacher. List five principles for each.

3. What are the three key areas that you have the most control over in making changes in your school?

4. What are your top three expectations for your staff's teaching?

Leadership Sphere of Influence

To become an effective (and awesome!) learner-centered leader, you need to be purposeful and think about leadership. Not only leadership in a theoretical way, but also leadership in a practical way as it relates to you and your school.

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."

-Rosalynn Carter

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1. What do you stand for? What lines are you unwilling to cross in order to get things done?

2. How would people describe your leadership style?

3. What tasks do you do during the course of your workday that do not contribute to your career, school, or leadership goals? How can you limit these tasks?

4. What tasks do you do during the course of your workday that contributes to your career, school, and leadership goals? How can you do more of these tasks?