

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

a briefing series for new england's educational leaders

Being an education leader is a tough job.

But it's also one of the **most important jobs in America**.

Every day our educators and elected representatives are working on the front lines to improve our schools and give students a better chance to succeed in life. That's our goal as well. *Leadership in Action* is a series of concise bimonthly briefings on some of the most important educational issues affecting the students, high schools, and communities of New England.

What Do Today's Students Need to Know?

How can we make sure every student is prepared for success in the new global economy? It's one of the most important questions facing New England's parents, educators, and elected representatives.

The list of technologies reshaping the way we live, work, and communicate is staggering—computers, the Internet, cellular phones, Google, satellites, YouTube, genetics, Facebook. Every day, the world is growing more complex and demanding. Today's students need skills that their parents never needed to learn, they will encounter problems that we never faced, and they will be competing for jobs that do not yet exist.

So what should we teach our children to make sure they are prepared?

What We've Learned

While experts have been debating the subject for years, our highest performing schools and most exceptional teachers provide clear direction:

- ✓ **Today's students need the basics.** English, mathematics, history, science—these subjects are as important today as they were fifty years ago. Yet scientists have given us new insights into brain development and our best teachers have shown us how to engage and inspire. We need to teach the fundamentals, but we need to teach them differently.
- ✓ **Today's students need relevant skills.** Problem solving, group collaboration, public speaking, economic literacy, research skills—these are just a handful of the real-world skills that will define success, employability, and competitiveness in the 21st century.
- ✓ **Today's students need to know technology.** Our students need to know how to conduct online research, separate fact from fiction on the Internet, and manage their online life. When they enter college, a postsecondary training program, or the workforce, they will be asked to design new publications and products, create and deliver multimedia presentations, master online tools and software applications, or collaborate with people across the globe.

What You Can Do

Today's students need champions. They need their parents, teachers, school administrators, elected representatives, and local business leaders to demand the best education we can provide, an education that will ensure every student leaves high school prepared for anything life throws at them. It's not just what they need—it's what they deserve. Have questions? [Find your state contact.](#)

Want to Learn More?

Visit the [Leadership in Action website](#) and download *I Want to Know More*.