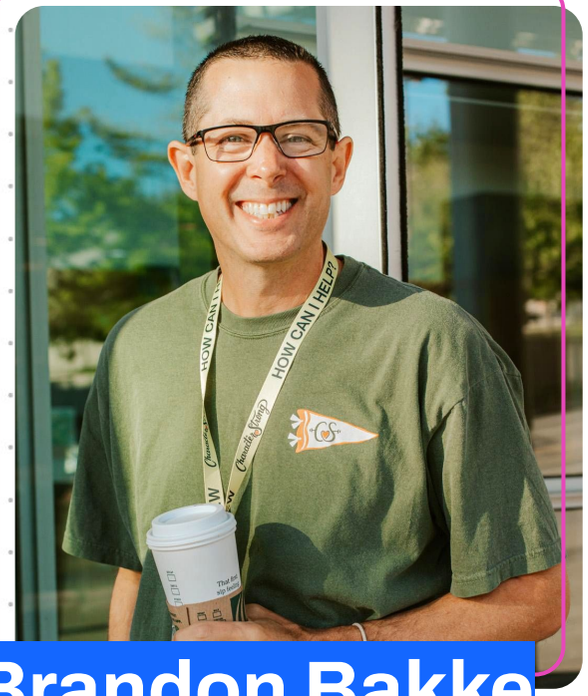
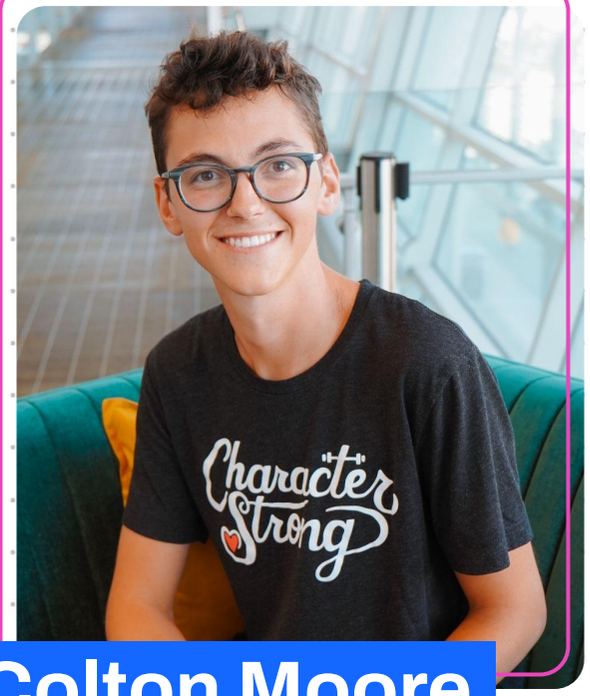
Beyond the Transcript: Building Future Ready Skills for College, Career, and Lasting Success

@characterstrong



Brandon Bakke

Secondary Director



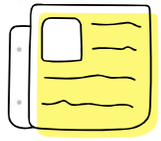
Colton Moore

Jr. Curriculum Specialist

Objectives

Recognize the impact and need of preparing students with Future Ready workplace skills

Introduce what Future Ready is and how it intersects with character education



See an example of a Future Ready Lesson

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In My Opinion

***Discuss** with those near you.*

The most difficult part

of delivering character education at the secondary level...

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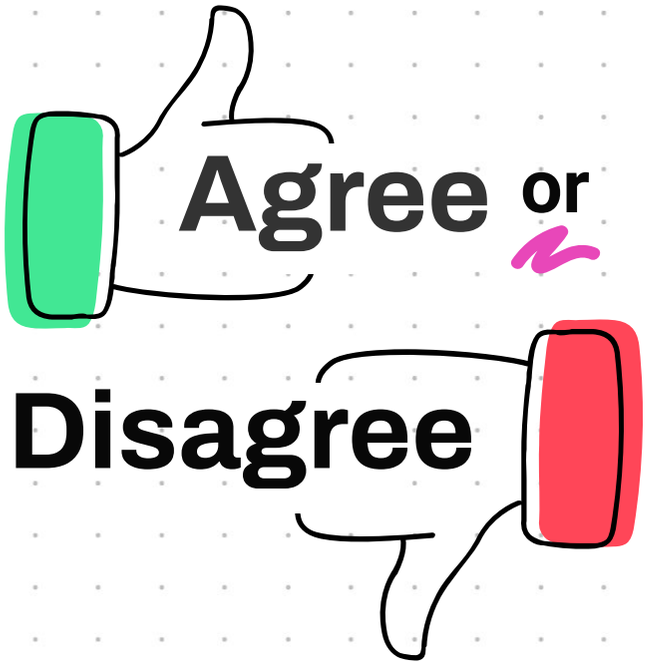
“ Engaging secondary students and making learning feel relevant can be a real challenge.”

High School Educator



Students can clearly connect character education to life after graduation.

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Real-World Relevance = Student Buy-In

Preparing for “life after high school.”

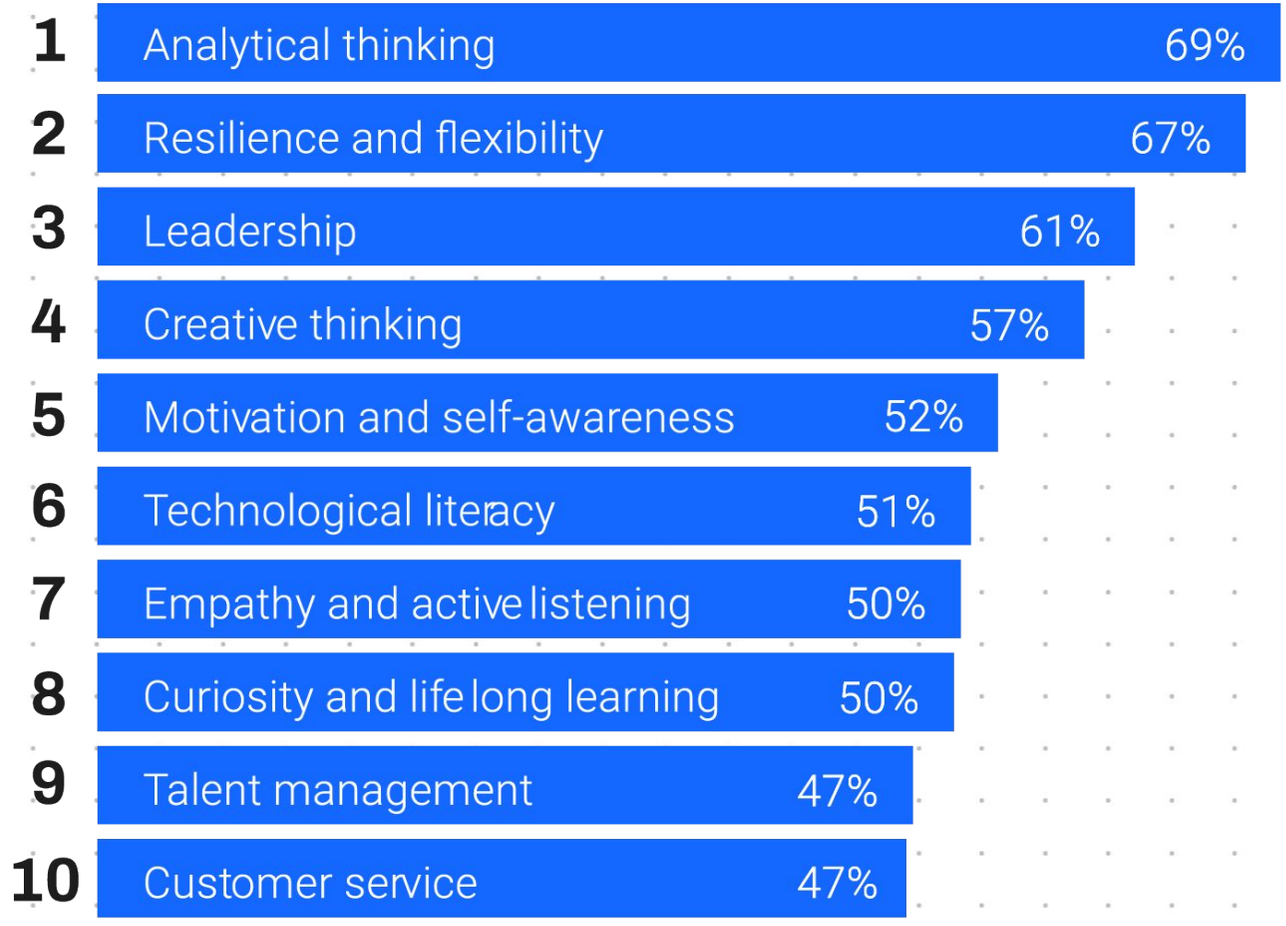
A balance of technical + human skills
so students can **get,** **keep,**
and **grow** in a job.

Question

What's the **#1 skill** you believe students should graduate high school with?

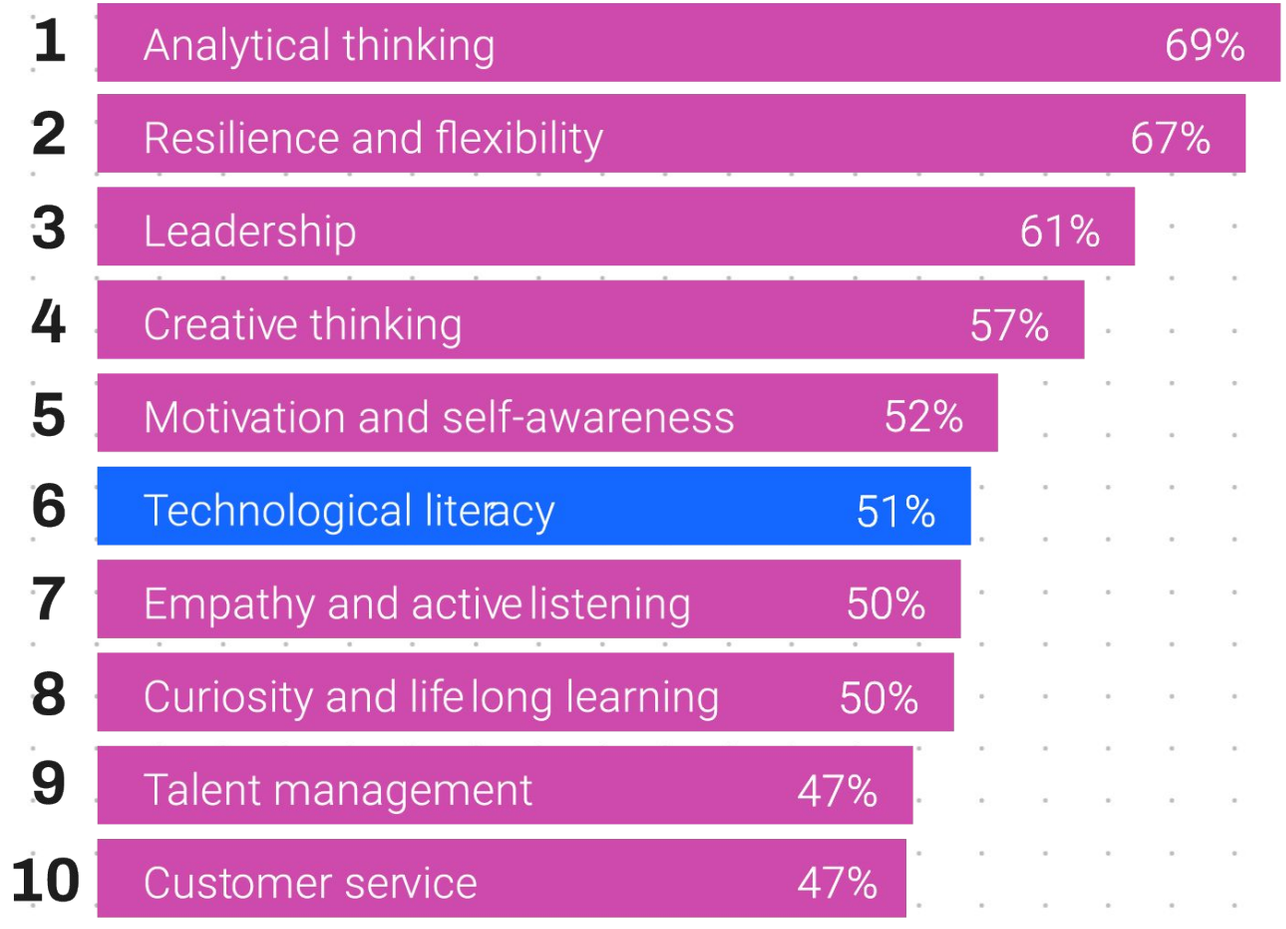
Most In-Demand Skills in the Workforce

World Economic Forum, 2024



9 of 10

Are soft or human skills



Work is Changing

Problems Remain Persistent

Question

What skills are your students **struggling** with most?

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92% of employers say soft skills are as or more important than technical skills.

89% have a very or somewhat difficult time finding candidates who have them.

The Wall Street Journal

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What are Soft Skills?

- Transferable across careers

Examples:

- Communication
- Problem-Solving
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Time management
- Interpersonal Skills

Soft Skills ≠ Soft

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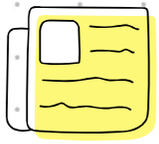
FUTURE READY

Equipping Students with the Skills for What's Next

FUTURE READY

Grounded in real-world situations and careers

Opportunities for practical application of skills



Relevant and engaging to students interested in a variety of careers and industries

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FUTURE READY

14 Sessions
30 min

10+ Supplemental Classroom Activities
5 to 60+ min

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FUTURE READY

Part of the High School Tier 1 Curriculum

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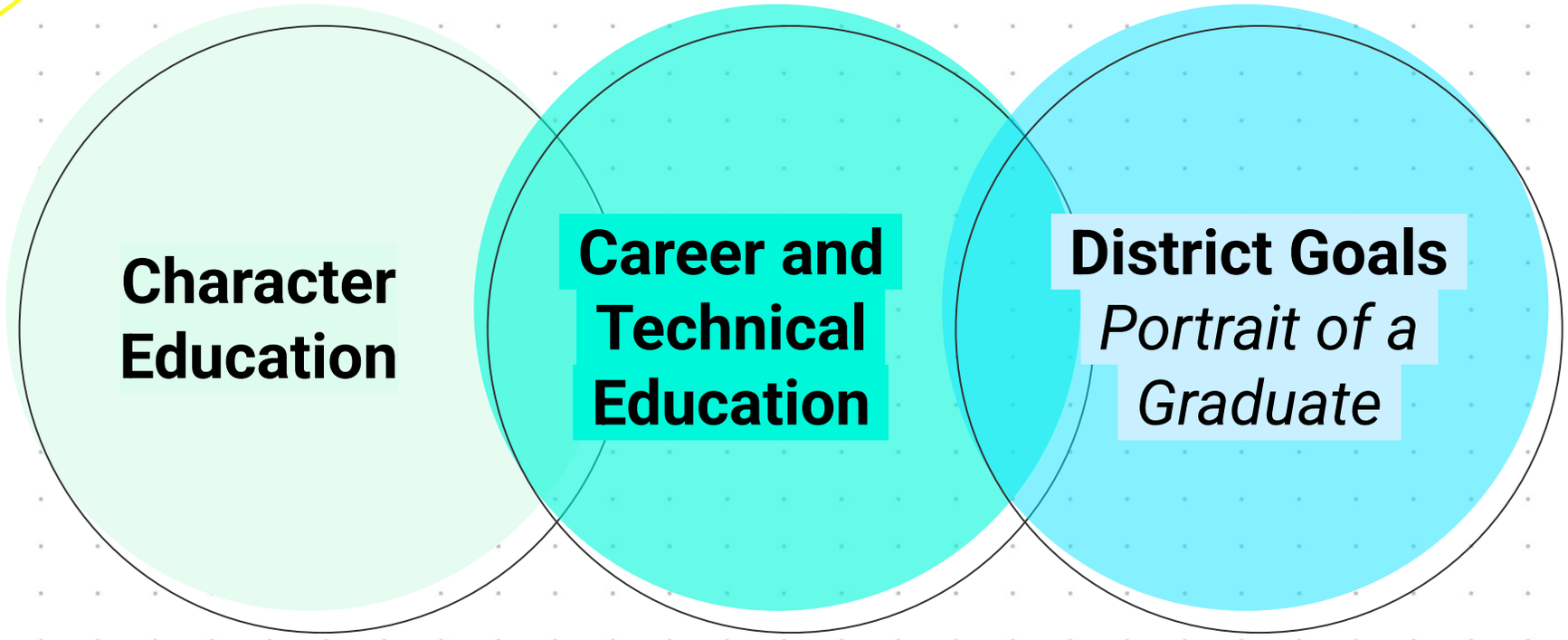
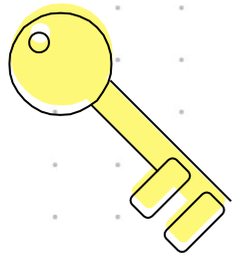
FUTURE READY



Character Education with a Career Focus

Traditional Character Education Competency		Future and Career Readiness
Mental Health & Well-Being	→	**Work Life Balance**
Empathy & Compassion	→	**Customer Service**
	→	



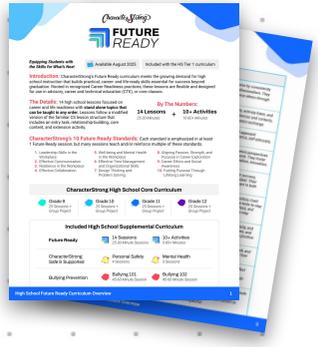
The Key to Teaching Future Ready Skills

Embedding, Not Just Exposing

Future Ready Session:

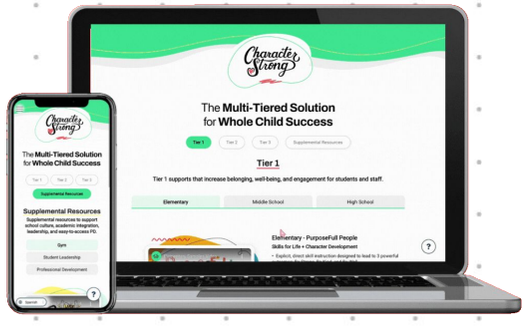
Ethical Decision Making

Take Away Resources



Future Ready Overview Document

Featuring: Scope and Sequence and Standards



Access Ethical Decision Making from our CharacterStrong samples

Scan to Download

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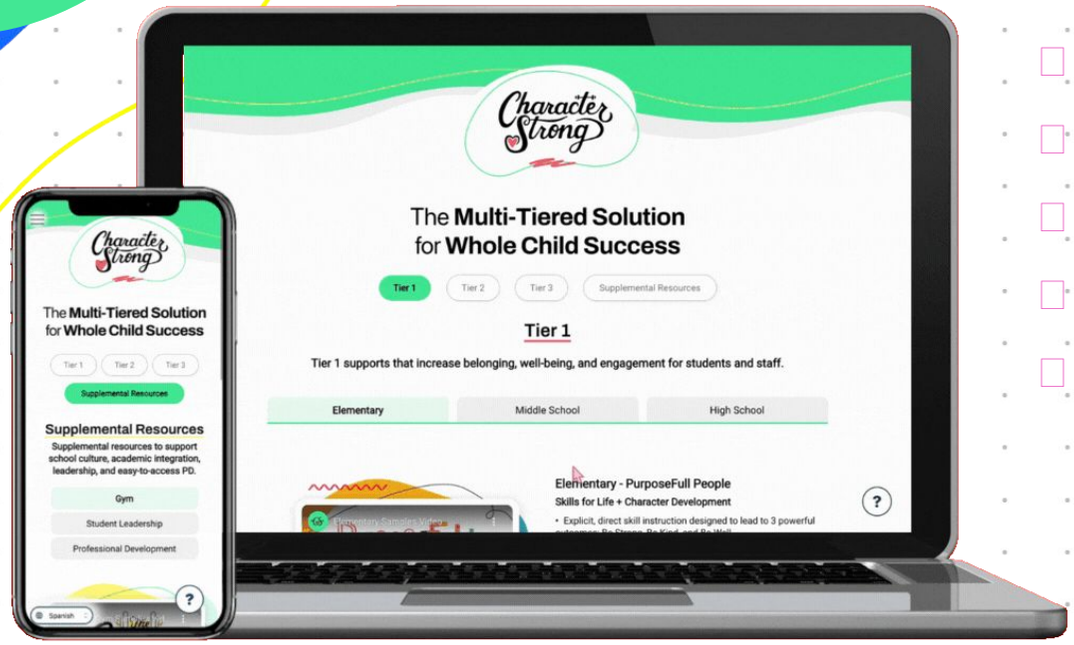
60 Second Feedback

Tier 1 Curriculum



- PreK - 12th Grade Vertically Aligned Curriculum
- Designed by Educators for Educators
- Every lesson is unique and does not repeat
- Research-Based Lessons
- Plug and Play Resources

Scan to Learn More

Tier 2 Solution

Tier 2

- Elementary, Middle, or High School Level Curricula
- 6 Evidence-Based Interventions
- Screening and Intervention Matching Tool
- Progress Monitoring and Intervention Fidelity Tools
- Monthly Professional Learning & Coaching Access
- Library of On Demand Training and Resources

Scan to Learn More:

New Training Date

Character Strong Tier 2

Certification Training

July 30th-31st Anaheim, CA
October 7th-8th Louisville, KY

Scan Here

Tier 3 Solution

Tier 3

- Elementary, Middle, or High School Level Curricula
- 6 Evidence-Based Interventions
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- Progress Monitoring and Intervention Fidelity Tools
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- Library of On Demand Training and Resources

Scan to Learn More:

LoHi Toolkit

- 100+ videos & activities
- 5 student sessions
- 8 virtual assemblies
- 8 downloadable posters
- 100+ CharacterDares

Scan to Learn More:

The CS Weekly

- A quick 2-3 minute strategy
- Delivered every Monday

THE Character Strong WEEKLY

Scan to Sign Up:

Professional Learning

- Stress, Coping, and Resilience
- Mental Health
- Behavioral Science
- Student Sense of Belonging
- Responding With Empathy
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- Science of Implementation

And more!

Scan to Learn More:

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MTSS

CERTIFICATION

September 2025: Louisville, KY
October 2025: Seattle, WA

Register now at:
CharacterStrong.com/MTSS-Certification

Scan Here

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Brain and Behavior Training

When and Where?

Creating a Culture of Academic Engagement and Effective Classroom Management

A 1-day training on our research-backed instructional framework to equip educators with easy-to-use tools that impact student behavior and school culture.

CS Tier 3

Certification Training

Austin, TX November 4-5, 2025

A 2-day event designed to certify school, district, and regional leaders in **advanced tools, resources, and research-based strategies** critical for the high-fidelity, sustained implementation of Tier 3 supports.

Register Here!

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Student Leadership

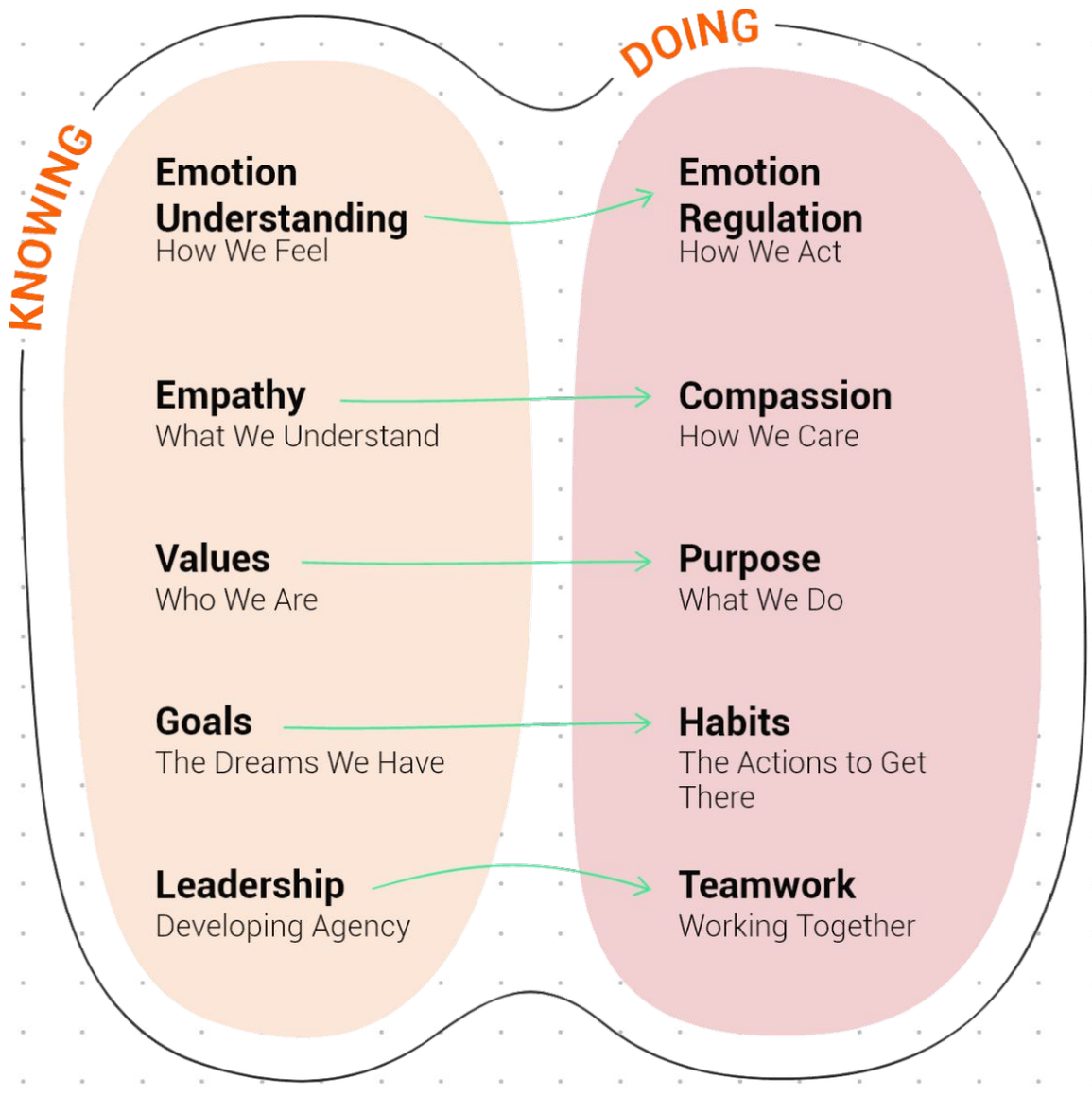
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

FOR

MS + HS

- Over 180, MS & HS lessons
- Engaging activities, videos, and discussions
- Entire curriculum accessible online

Scan to Learn More:



Future Ready Outcomes

Stress management
Doesn't let emotions impact their work

Customer service
You can't serve if you don't understand

Ownership
Strong career fit, passion for their work

Organization and solution focus
Continuously improving and following through

Initiative and collaboration
Takes action and works well with others