

Praise for *The Instructional Change Agent*

Do you want to feel the passion, make visible the heart of being a principal, build the culture that makes the difference, build your confidence to be the lead learner, and leave a legacy on your teachers and students? Then this is your bible.

—John Hattie, laureate professor, Melbourne Graduate School of Education; chair, board of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership; author of *Visible Learning*

Adam Drummond gets it. Leadership is the key lever for creating positive change in schools. *The Instructional Change Agent* will serve as an invaluable field guide for anyone navigating the pitfalls and challenges of any education environment. Full of practical advice and action-ready ideas that you can roll out tomorrow, this book provides the structure to help make your vision a reality.

—Jean S. Desravines, CEO of New Leaders

Adam Drummond has eloquently captured the essence of what it means to be an effective instructional change agent. By focusing on the essential tenets of transformational leadership, he describes proven practices that are grounded in the necessary act of self-reflection. Understanding why we do what we do serves as a basis for every decision and every act in which we engage on behalf of all kids. His expanded notion of an instructional leader as a change agent gives credence to the essential roles that principals play every day. Read and reread this book—it speaks to the heart of leadership.

—Deb Delisle, CEO and president, Alliance for Excellent Education; former assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education, US Department of Education

Every leader wants to help his or her school improve, but with time challenges it can seem daunting. Dr. Adam Drummond draws on a wealth of experience working in schools to outline practical strategies that leaders can

begin implementing immediately. His book will assist any leader to set the stage for sustainable change that creates a culture of excellence.

—Eric Sheninger, senior fellow, International Center for Leadership in Education; best-selling author of *Learning Transformed: 8 Keys to Designing Tomorrow's Schools, Today*

Being a building principal is one of the most difficult jobs in the world, yet it is, by far, one of the most rewarding. To be a highly effective building leader, you must be an instructional change agent, and in this book, Drummond eloquently shares a framework for improving school leadership, while outlining proven strategies to support you in your journey along the way. The work is hard, but our kids are worth it.

—Thomas C. Murray, director of innovation, Future Ready Schools; best-selling author of *Learning Transformed: 8 Keys to Designing Tomorrow's Schools, Today*

It's natural in our field to be in pursuit of excellence. Whether you are looking for the next best answer to improve the student and staff experience in your school, or are looking to reorganize your time to better reflect what you value and thus narrow the space between what you know intuitively you should be doing versus what consumes your time every day, this book provides a clear perspective on how to narrow that knowing-doing gap. The new principalship requires strong instructional leadership skills. Dr. Drummond provides a road map with on-the-ground strategies that will increase your impact immediately. It will challenge you, it will make you reflect, it will give you actionable behaviors, and it will motivate you to be the very best you can be for 100 percent of your students 100 percent of the time! Regardless of where you are in your career as a school leader, this is not only a book you need in your own collection but also one you'll want to share with others for years to come.

—Mark McIlmoyle, principal, Mound Westonka High School, Mound Westonka, Minnesota

Dr. Drummond's book provides an organized, clear, and research-based framework for becoming an outstanding instructional leader, which begins with understanding oneself. This book is unique in that it considers the

importance of human relationships in effective instructional leadership and in shaping positive school culture. As the director of one of the largest principal preparation programs in the Midwest, I recommend this book to all future and current school leaders!

—Dr. Lori Boyland, associate professor, director of the master’s and principal licensure programs, Ball State University

Adam Drummond has crafted a book that every school leader, and aspiring leader, must add to his or her professional library immediately. His book is filled with practical ideas and resources to grow yourself and get better. I love how this book involves the entire campus, including student voices!

—Todd Nesloney, elementary principal and coauthor of *Kids Deserve It!*

This book is a school leader’s guide for school success. It is loaded with practical and innovative ideas well-suited for both new and veteran administrators. This is not one of those lofty books that you read and put on the shelf. Instead, you’ll come to rely on *The Instructional Change Agent* as your playbook for school success.

—Brady Smekens, director of professional development, Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.

The Instructional Change Agent presents a highly valuable and organized cornucopia of tools for culture building. Dr. Drummond packs wit and on-the-job wisdom into an outstanding primer for school leaders.

—Dr. Tracey R. Shafer, superintendent, Danville Community School Corporation, Danville, Indiana

The Instructional Change Agent is an administrator’s playbook for practical ways to become the leader your school or district needs and deserves. Dr. Adam Drummond calls on his vast experience to guide and inspire both new and seasoned instructional leaders.

—Denise White and Alisa Braddy, authors of *Ready-to-Go Instructional Strategies That Build Collaboration, Communication, and Critical Thinking*

Whether you take the ways one by one or all at once, the methods described in this book will tether school administrators to value-driven, data-informed, relationship-based leadership. Drummond, a lifelong learner, does not claim to have all the answers but he has laid a foundation for administrators to chart a course to develop the capacity for leadership beginning where they are.

—Katy Smith, 2011 Minnesota teacher of the year

Adam’s book captures the heart of a school leader by providing a fresh look at time-tested systems that spotlight the core values of the principalship that will be sure to increase stakeholder value. This wisdom-packed book of everyday, realistic, and purpose filled ideas is recommended for any principal’s bookshelf.

—Clark Mershon, executive director, Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals

School administrators who strive to be true instructional leaders have been given a gift in *The Instructional Change Agent*—the gift of actionable, field-tested strategies for staying grounded in what students and teachers need, so they can maximize their impact on learning. How can principals keep their focus on instructional leadership? This guide provides action-oriented strategies for leading with intentionality.

—Justin Baeder, PhD, director of The Principal Center

Are you ready to light a fire, create positive change, and do what’s right for kids? Inside these chapters you’ll uncover 48 relevant, authentic, and energizing ways to make a difference in schools! For the new or experienced, there are critical points embedded in this work that apply to all of us. So, grab a highlighter and lean in. At some point, we’ve all wished for an owner’s manual for successful school leadership, and we’ve finally got one!”

—Melissa D. Patschke, EdD, principal, Upper Providence Elementary and Spring City Elementary; board of directors of Pennsylvania Principals Association; former NAESP Zone 2 director; and adjunct university faculty