

# From the New Schools Venture Fund (Part 3/5): How to Make Sure Your Students Believe their Abilities and Skills can Grow with Effort

Many students have faced frustrations with remote learning, which hurts the confidence they have in their own abilities.

The “learning loss” created by Covid has a negative effect on students’ belief that they can grow and sustain their knowledge with effort.

This is exacerbated for our BIPOC students who are more likely to be experiencing trauma.

What can we do to address this, and how does it affect academic achievement?



Three years of research from the NSVF Ventures  
has consistently found:

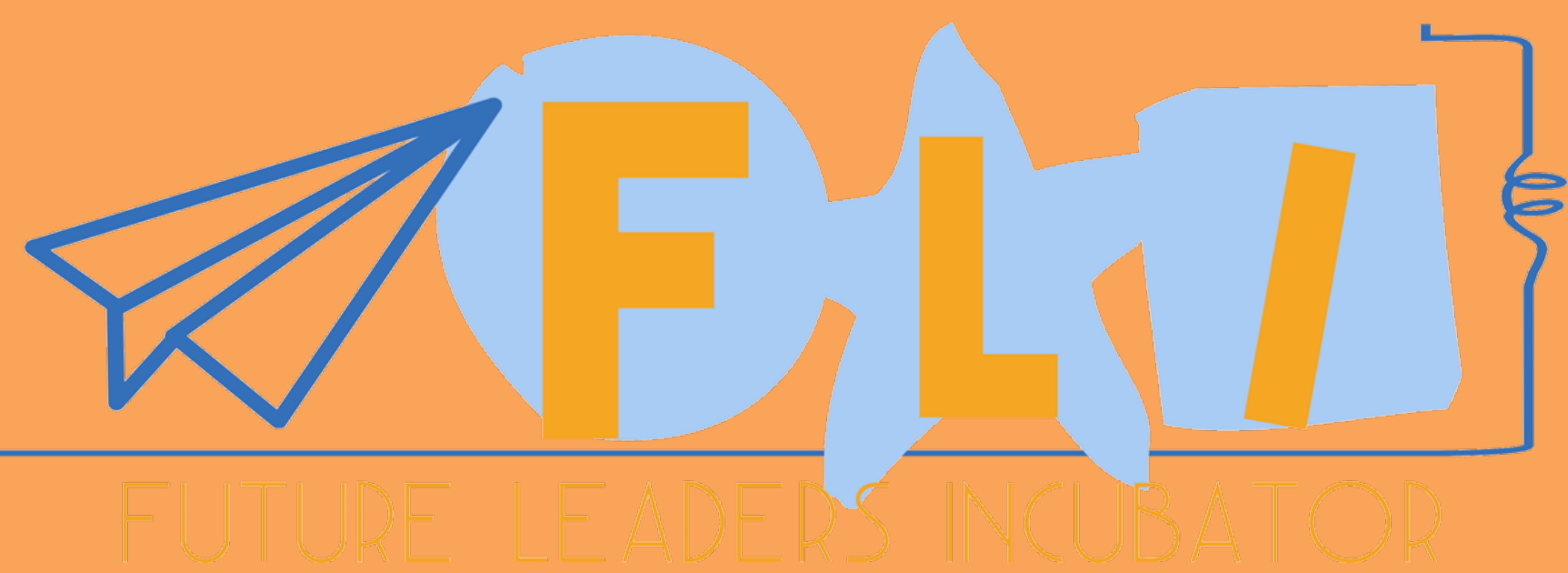


**Students with strong perceptions  
of their ability to improve**

**do *significantly* better  
in math and reading**

Students who report that they have a sense of  
belonging at their schools have improved on  
nationally normed assessments by an average  
of 13 percentile points!

Evidence-based  
initiatives that work



**Initiative #1: Develop a “growth mindset”**

**Explicitly teach students how to develop a “growth mindset”**

**Implement routine advisory sessions:**

- **Teach students about “growth mindset”**
- **Provide exercises to help nurture a belief in “growth mindsets,” allowing students to be active participants in having a growth mindset in a safe space**
- **Recognize and challenge negative beliefs that are self- or societally- imposed**

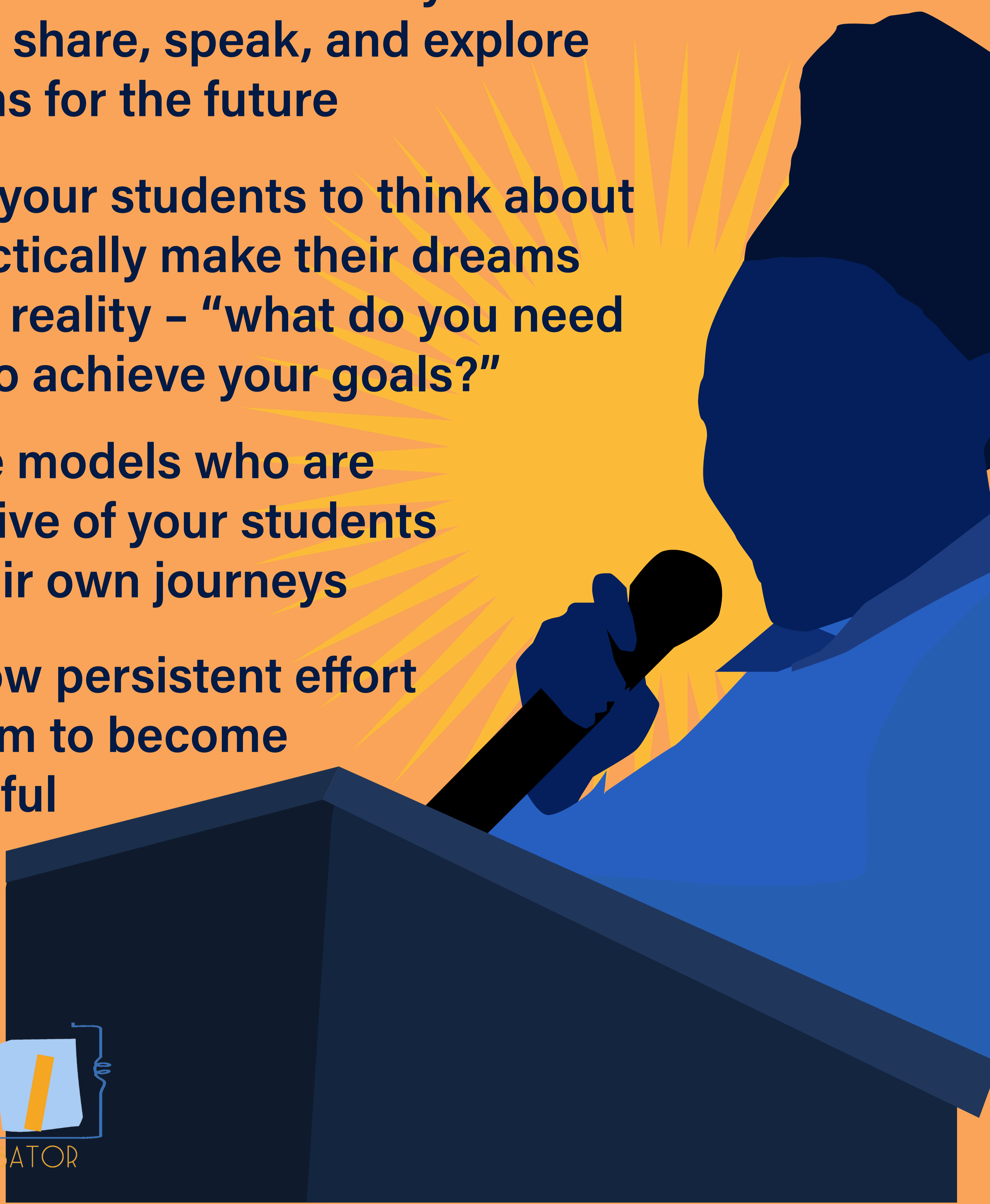


## Initiative #2: Visualize the future

# Assure students that they can achieve their dreams

## Bring in inspiring role models:

- Create a safe environment for your students to share, speak, and explore their dreams for the future
- Encourage your students to think about how to practically make their dreams their future reality – “what do you need to do first to achieve your goals?”
- Bring in role models who are representative of your students to share their own journeys
- Focus on how persistent effort allowed them to become the successful people that they are!

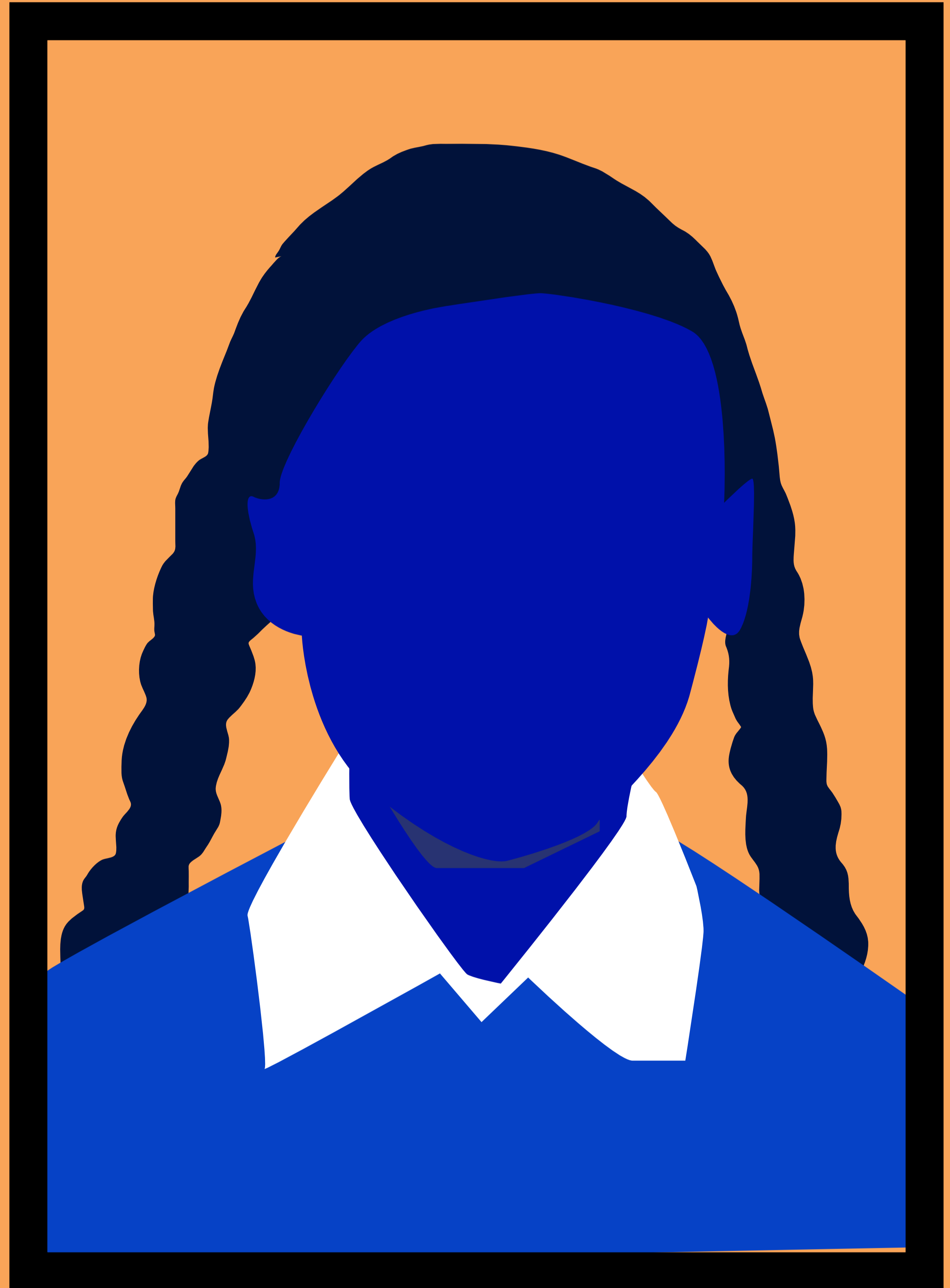


## Initiative #3: Promote collaboration

# Encourage students to help others grow

## Recognize and reward good work:

- Consider featuring students on school-sponsored platforms for helping others
- Reach out to families of students to highlight growth and positive effort
- Create time for students to publicly recognize each other and “shout out” growth they’ve seen in one another



**STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

*For growth mindsets to be fully internalized, 100% of the community has to be involved!*



**Initiative #4: Prepare students from week 1**

# **Develop growth mindsets before starting the school year Implement “growth mindset orientation”:**

**As schools reopen, consider starting the year by developing the mindset necessary to face the challenges caused by the Covid-19 “learning loss”.**

**Spend the first week on an “orientation” to help students:**

- **Think deeply about the learner they want to be**
- **Understand that they can make decisions, take risks, reflect, and adjust as they grow**

**FLI is currently working with partner schools to develop thoughtful and research-driven return-to-school plans!**



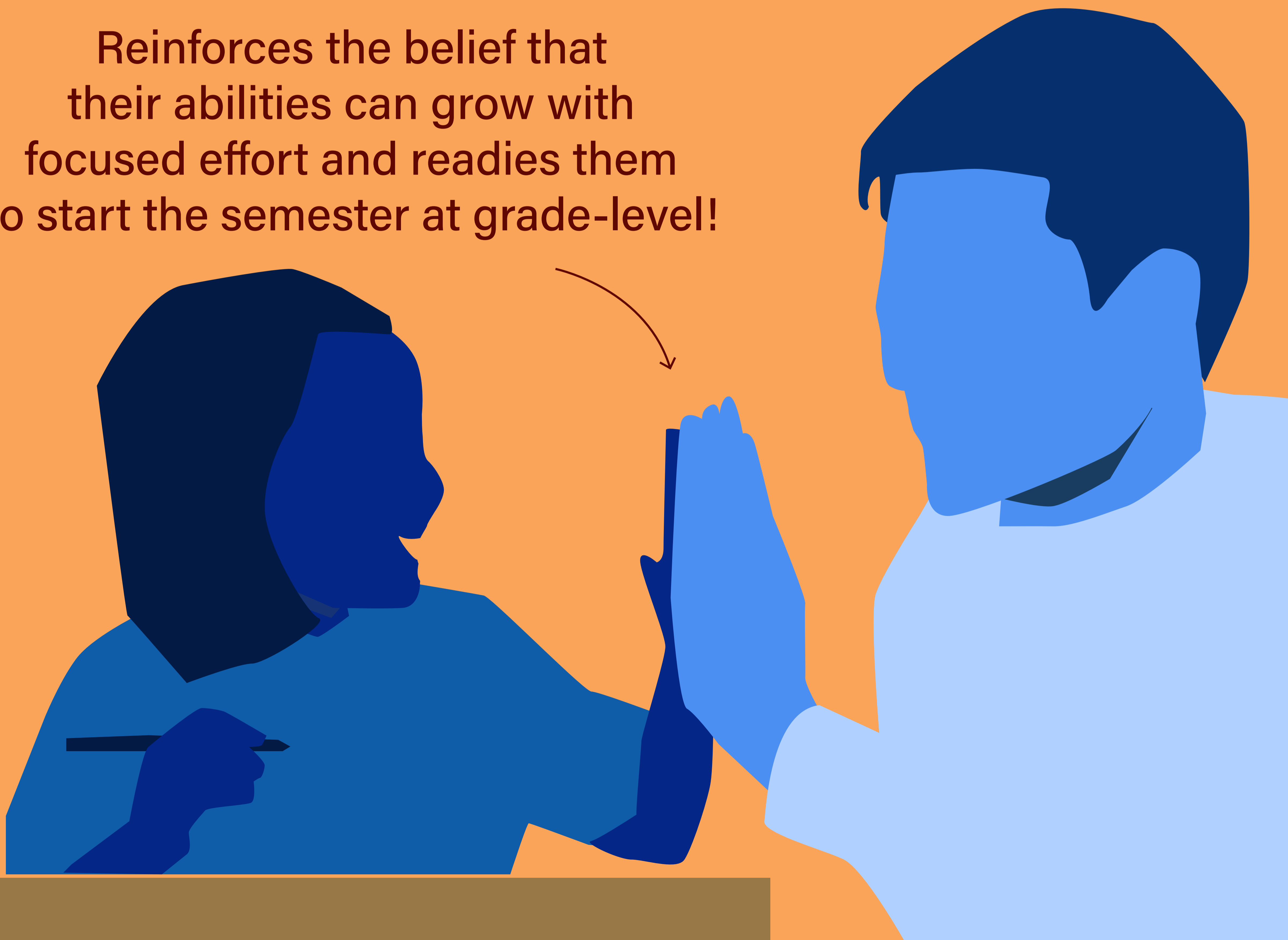
**Initiative #5: Recognize and celebrate progress**

**Focus on creating and achieving benchmarked, individualized goals**

**Implement “mini-semester” to support specific academic and social-emotional needs that emerged during remote learning:**

**Consider implementing short month-long “mini-semester” with small-group sessions for students who’ve fallen far behind grade-level**

Reinforces the belief that their abilities can grow with focused effort and readies them to start the semester at grade-level!



# FLI is Here to Help!

FLI offers a number of programs to help schools create inclusive, equitable, and student-centered practices. We can help:

## **Implement SEL programs:**

FLI works with partner schools to develop and implement culturally sensitive Social Emotional Learning to meet students' needs.

## **Develop Restorative Justice Practices:**

FLI develops restorative justice practices that foster a sense of student belonging, unlike traditional disciplinary policies.

## **Provide Professional Development Workshops:**

FLI offers professional development programs, including DEIA workshops, to help educators and educational leaders work through their own trauma, become more inclusive, and learn how to be more responsive to their students' needs.

Contact  
[info@futureleadersincubator.org](mailto:info@futureleadersincubator.org)





# FLI is Here to Help!

FLI offers a number of programs to help schools create inclusive, equitable, and student-centered practices. We can help:

## Empower your Students:

FLI's new student-led initiative, the Future Leaders Coalition, teaches students how to become better advocates for themselves and their peers. Share the news with your students and have them sign up at [tinyurl.com/FutureLeadersCoalition](https://tinyurl.com/FutureLeadersCoalition)!

Contact [flc@futureleadersincubator.org](mailto:flc@futureleadersincubator.org) for more information

