

IMPACT REPORT

2024

WORLD LEADERSHIP
SCHOOL 



2024 SNAPSHOT

Student Programming



1,066

students and educators have spent more than **450** days engaging with local communities and organizations in **13** locations across the globe.



"I am leaving this program as a better version of myself, and it has made me think more about how I act and present myself at home."
- Student, Thayer Academy,
Costa Rica Program



\$178,420

shared in support of local mission-driven organizations, community projects and NGO contributions!



"This program gave me a deeper understanding of the border. It inspired me to try harder to understand a complex issue and be empathetic."
- Student, Punahou School
Borderplex Immersion Program



441

students participated in our purpose clarification process through a **Youth Purpose Summit/SPARK** journey.



"One thing I learned about the peers in my spark group is that we have more in common than I thought."
- Calvert School
SPARK participant

2024 SNAPSHOT

Professional Learning



3,302

adult learners impacted by WLS
Professional Learning from around
the world.



"This workshop was not just educational but was also a great team-building event. Everyone brought a positive attitude and energy!"

*- Faculty,
Montessori Academy of Colorado*



2024 SNAPSHOT

Salmon River Program for School Heads



57

Heds of School have participated in this yearlong leadership development program over the last three years.

”

"The best professional development experience I have experienced in years."

*- Percy Abram
Head, Bush School (Seattle, WA)*



SCHOOL PARTNERS





—1785—
MFS Moorestown
Friends School

M MONTESSORI
School of Denver



RTA RICHMOND HEBREW
DAY SCHOOL
Deeply rooted, forward focused


San Francisco Day School


SANTA FE PREP




SEVEN PEAKS
SCHOOL




TRINITY
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL




WESTOVER
SCHOOL


WHITBY

PURPOSE IN LEARNING: THINKING, FEELING, AND DOING

World Leadership School made progress in 2024 towards clarifying its vision of **Purpose Learning**, or the idea of learning that integrates **thinking** (skills and content), **feeling** (emotion, empathy, identity), and **doing** (making and creating, community engagement, real-world problem solving, etc). At the center of these three domains, students have a great chance of connecting with purpose in learning - and in themselves.

Over the last decade, schools have made a broad shift away from content memorization to **skills-based learning**. But even competency-based learning can feel meaningless unless it is designed around each student's humanity. Purpose learning allows students to explore two basic human questions: "Who am I?" and "How do I contribute to something bigger?"

Purpose learning has profound implications for the future of K12 education, including how we assess students, organize the school day, divide knowledge into subjects, and define what it means to be a teacher — and a student. In an age of artificial intelligence, where everything that can be automated will be automated, **our uniquely human ability to tell stories, make meaning, and follow purpose will be more important.**

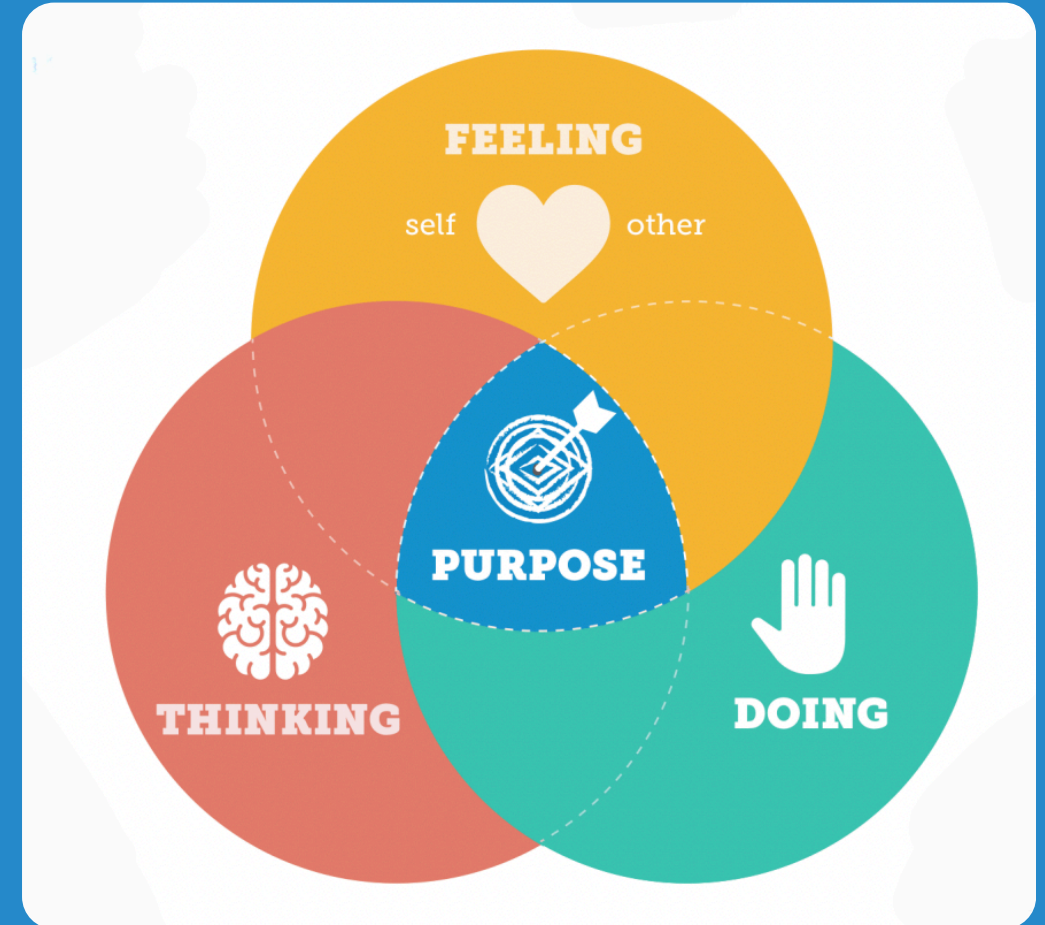


Purpose helps students be happier, healthier, and more effectively manage stress. However, according to Stanford's Youth Purpose Study, only 20 percent of high school students and 10 percent of middle school students are purposeful. We believe that K-12 schools can create visible and intentional strategies that help teachers and students explore, discover, and articulate purpose.

Stanford's Center on Adolescence defines purpose as "a stable intention that is meaningful to self and consequential for the world." In other words, it's a core of meaning on the inside that connects to an action on the outside. It can be very simple, such as "to grow and give."

At World Leadership School, we know we can do better. We help schools pursue deliberate strategies in response to the question we believe is guiding the future of learning:

"How can schools help students explore, discover, and articulate purpose?"

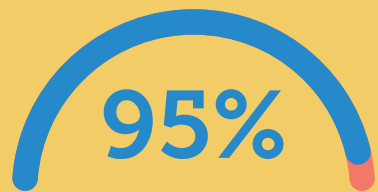


IMPACT ON SCHOOLS: STUDENT PROGRAMMING

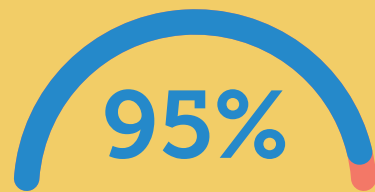
Every year, WLS works with K-12 schools to design and deliver immersive partnership-based travel programs in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the USA. We see travel as a powerful tool for guiding students toward lives of purpose and helping educators transform classrooms.

On our travel programs, students **disconnect, decenter, and re-envision**. They disconnect from technology and their normal rhythms of life, become decentered through immersive experiences, and re-envision their lives by working alongside local students and community leaders.

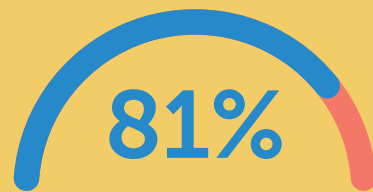
After a WLS program:



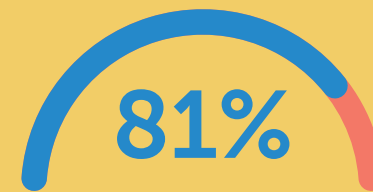
of students are more interested in investigating the world.



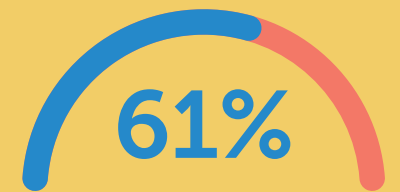
of students are more interested in immersing themselves in other cultures.




of students feel empowered to find solutions to global issues.



of students feel empowered to find solutions to global issues.



of students want to reshape what they plan to study or do in the future.



"I gained so much knowledge about these NGOs that I hugely value and will take with me. This is a possible career path for me and this trip cemented my passion."

STUDENT
LINCOLN SCHOOL
GREECE PROGRAM

"Watching and seeing all these people doing what they love and making an impact was very inspiring and makes me want to be like that."

STUDENT
WESTOVER SCHOOL
PUERTO RICO PROGRAM

IMPACT ON SCHOOLS : PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & CONSULTING

Our Professional Learning team partners with schools to create meaningful change. Through workshops, coaching, leadership support, educator travel experiences, and the development of the K12 Change Lab, we help schools bring greater purpose to learning and make classrooms more human-centered. Our work focuses on three key connections: teachers reconnecting with their professional purpose, building strong collaborative teams, and implementing pedagogies that best meet the needs of their students. By anchoring in the "why," we guide teaching teams through the "how" and the "what."

Our team continues to offer a range of workshops that help educators explore purpose and shift toward equitable, learner-centered pedagogies, such as **Project-Based Learning** and **Purpose Learning**. Designed as immersive experiences, our workshops empower teachers to connect, create, and implement actionable ideas. We provide both virtual and in-person workshops based on each school's unique needs. Additionally, we offer **Risk Management** workshops for educators leading student travel and **Audit + Design Workshops** for schools seeking to analyze and improve their global programming.

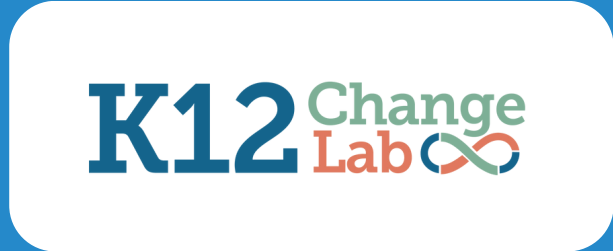


While our workshops spark inspiration, our Coaching Institute ensures that insights translate into action. Through structured coaching, individual educators and teaching teams partner with a WLS coach to advance along our research-based Coaching Continuum, which provides a clear, strategic work plan to drive meaningful school-wide change. Coaching supports both pedagogical transformation and risk management development, ensuring that schools have the tools they need to sustain progress.

We continue to offer a variety of personalized professional learning experiences, including our Self-Paced Introduction to Project-Based Learning, action-oriented Toolkit Workshops, an Educator Travel Program, and the Heads of School Rafting Trip on the Salmon River in Idaho. We believe that when educators are given the right space, support, and inspiration, they can lead transformational change in schools—bringing energy, innovation, and deeper purpose to learning.

[empowHER](#), a summit for female-identifying educators, launched in the Summer of 2024 with 12 participants. During the four-day event, we created community, championed the female voice, and re-energized our personal and professional purpose.

The [K12 Change Lab](#), in development for much of 2024, will serve as an incubator for innovative school transformation, providing educators with the space, support, and strategies to design and implement learner-centered, purpose-driven experiences. Through facilitated collaboration, design sprints, and strategic coaching, schools work toward sustainable, impactful change.



100%

of our participants said our Educator Travel Program in Peru exceeded their expectations

100%

of empowHER participants would recommend this experience to others

100%

of School Heads on the Salmon River Program said they would recommend this experience to a colleague.

“

WLS is always open to suggestions, changes, or pivoting to better meet the needs of our students and the communities in which we work. As a DEI practitioner, I have also been impressed by their ability to consider the intersectionality of gender, race, geography, and socio-economic status in framing and designing these immersive programs. I cannot recommend World Leadership School strongly enough.

”

BARRET FABRIS

DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING AND GLOBAL PROGRAMS
LINCOLN SCHOOL (PROVIDENCE, RI)

A woman with long, wavy blonde hair is sitting on a brick ledge, painting. She is wearing a black t-shirt and shorts. On the ledge in front of her are various art supplies, including a palette, brushes, and a small bowl. The background shows a lush green landscape with a white fence, a small building, and rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

“

I was able to be myself, to share ideas and listen to others. I think the small number of attendees aided this experience because I could interact with everyone in meaningful conversation. I also really liked that I had a single partner with whom to work through challenges.

”

EMPOWHER PARTICIPANT

2024 Professional Learning By the Numbers:

104

104 schools in North America were impacted by our professional learning programs.

6

We successfully ran our **6th Annual K-12 Purpose Summit** in Boulder, Colorado in the Winter of 2024, which included **75 educators** from schools around North America.

7

We successfully ran our **7th K-12 Purpose Summit** in Mexico City, Mexico, in the Fall of 2024. The summit included **22 educators** from schools around Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

117

117 educators from around the world participated in our educator programs, including K-12 Purpose Summit- Boulder, Heads Rafting Trip, ED Travel to Peru, K-12 Purpose Summit-Mexico City, and empowHER.

12

We collaborated with **12 independent school associations and private organizations**. These include: Khan Academy, Top Gun (Dominion Payroll), Virginia Association of Independent Schools, Florida Council of Independent Schools, Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools, California Association of Independent Schools, Independent School Experiential Education Network, and Tri-Association, among others.

WALKING TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

World Leadership School's programs are rooted in responsible and sustainable community engagement theory. We studied different community engagement strategies before developing our approach, "Walking Together." Our partnerships with communities, schools, NGOs, artisan collectives, and other organizations are built within the context of their own journeys. We strive to overcome challenges and avoid the pitfalls of traditional community service work through these partnerships and by studying the work of local community leaders and how they are taking action in their own communities. Our partners work with us to co-create activities and experiences. Therefore, each partnership is different.

We strive to invest in local leaders by hiring coordinators and instructors from within the communities where we work and are committed to paying a premium for supplies directly sourced from our partner communities. World Leadership School is also committed to improving the natural environments we visit through reforestation, poverty reduction, and long-term education initiatives.



Since 2009 students and donors have raised \$2,504,292 for community contributions.

GLOBAL PRESENCE

As World Leadership School continues to restore travel programs following the pandemic, we worked in 2024 in 25 communities across eight countries. Since 2009, participants and donors have raised \$2,504,292 for community contributions that have supported a wide range of NGO partnerships and social impact projects. These donations support the work of NGOs and help fund community projects such as school buildings in Kenya, computer labs in Belize, and covered walkways and child-sized bathrooms in Costa Rica.



WHO WE ARE

We are a tight-knit team of committed individuals. We have decades of experience with innovative educational practices in the classroom, wilderness, and diverse global environments. We are proud to foster students of purpose and enrich lives with our immersive partnership-based travel programs. Our instructors are intrepid, humorous, and wise experiential educators. Our coordinators live and work near our host communities and nurture the long-term relationships that are the bedrock of our work.

Our professional learning team works with school teams around the world to create student-driven, world-connected classrooms. With K12 Change Lab, we help schools implement strategic goals in line with our mission to “reimagine learning and create next-generation leaders.”





I believe strongly in the power of experiential learning to transform individuals of all ages. As program leader, I witnessed the curiosity, determination, and openness with which these young people approached this adventure. Students were challenged daily to step outside their comfort zones, confront prior assumptions, break through language barriers, and work together as a cohesive unit. They built relationships and were exposed to an incredible array of leadership styles, and were able to learn directly from strong local leaders who are affecting change in their community.



MEGHAN EDWARDS

**DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT
LA JOLLA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL (LA JOLLA, CA)**

CORE VALUES

**Show up
with
*purpose***

**Search the
horizon
and watch
the ground**

***Trust*
the team**



***Do*
what I say**

**Create a
community
of joy**

**Listen and
speak with
*intention***

World Leadership School is driven by the mission to “reimagine learning and create next-generation leaders.” We do this by helping schools take students out into the world on immersive, partnership-based travel experiences and by coaching educators to bring purpose to learning. We believe that K-12 schools should be the ultimate platform for launching children into lives of purpose.

Our mission was never more critical than during the COVID-19 pandemic when our travel programs became disrupted. During this time, we followed our mission. We focused on new ways of working with schools, including virtual immersive travel experiences, online educator classes and modules, and new forms of team coaching.

Apart from our mission, our community at World Leadership School is based on our core commitments. The WLS commitments are not performance goals. Instead, they are action statements that describe how we want to show up for each other and our schools.

B-CORPORATION



In addition to being a certified B Corp, WLS took the additional step to switch its status to a Colorado Public Benefit Corp in 2014. The public benefit statute requires that all PBCs assess and report on their overall social and environmental performance, benchmarked against a third-party standard that meets statutory criteria of transparency and credibility.

WLS is a Founding B Corp that has passed the B Impact Assessment (BIA) every two years since 2017. We believe that the BIA is the most credible tool we can use to measure our impact on our workers, community, environment, and customers. Every assessment audit has challenged our thinking and given us a process to assess and evaluate our way of doing things.

Overall B Impact Score

Based on the B Impact assessment, World Leadership School earned an overall score of 81.9. The median score for ordinary businesses who complete the assessment is currently 50.9.



- 81.9 Overall B Impact Score
- 80 Qualifies for B Corp Certification
- 50.9 Median Score for Ordinary Businesses

Impact Area Scores





WORLD LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

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