

# LEAD4CHANGE®

Help your students grow as leaders *and* receive an industry-recognized credential with Lead4Change

## What is Lead4Change?

The **Lead4Change Core Curriculum** is a free, project-based leadership program for middle and high school students. It's designed to help students:

- Build real-world leadership and life skills
- Create meaningful change in their communities
- *And* earn credit toward graduation

**Over the course of 7 flexible modules, students will:**

- ✓ Grow in confidence, self-awareness, and communication
- ✓ Set goals, lead with purpose, and work as a team
- ✓ Solve real problems through a student-led service project

**The curriculum supports key educational priorities like:**

- Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Project-Based Learning (PBL)

Plus, like all Lead4Change resources, it's research-backed, teacher-approved, and 100% free.



## How can it help my students earn credit?

Lead4Change is approved as an Industry-Recognized Credential by the Illinois State Board of Education.

- **Credential Name:** Lead4Change Leadership Certificate
- **Category:** Human & Public Services, Finance & Business

## Everything you need to help your students succeed.


When you register (for free!), you'll unlock:

- A full library of lessons, handouts, and rubrics
- Short, engaging leadership videos
- A team dashboard to track progress and upload work
- Step-by-step educator guidance and support
- Access to a dedicated instructional coach

## Here's how it works:

- 1. Sign up at [Lead4Change.org](https://Lead4Change.org) for instant access.**  
 No student logins or accounts to manage.
- 2. Facilitate the Curriculum (Modules 1-7)**  
 Use the plug-and-play modules in your Lead4Change dashboard. Everything's included—no extra prep required.
- 3. Lead a Student-Driven Service Project**  
 As students move through the curriculum, they'll work in teams to plan and complete a service project that addresses a real need in their school or community. The full timeline depends on the project—some take a few weeks, others unfold over a few months.
- 4. Submit Your Project (Plus Pathway)**  
 To receive credit, complete the **Plus Project Submission** in your Lead4Change dashboard, which includes:
  - Project summary + highlights
  - Student work samples (no test at the end!)
  - Completed team reflection

For full eligibility and submission requirements ▶


- 5. (Optional) Apply for a Small Grant**  
 Eligible teams can apply for up to \$10,000 in grant funding for their school, club, or nonprofit partner by completing Modules 8 and 9 and submitting the required application materials.
- 6. Submit Certificates to Your District**  
 Once approved, Lead4Change will issue **digital certificates** for each student. You can also request free honor cords from Lead4Change for your students to wear for graduation. Submit your student's certificate according to your state IRC process.

## Have questions?

We're here to help! Log in to your **Lead4Change dashboard** to view your assigned **Instructional Coach** and schedule a support session.



### Need help getting started or have a general question?

Fill out this form, and someone from our team will be in touch!

## Get Started Today

Register for free at [Lead4Change.org](https://Lead4Change.org)

Empower your students to lead—and earn real credit along the way.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **I'm already using Lead4Change—how do I make sure my students earn an industry-recognized credential?**

To receive your credential, you must submit your students' work as a Plus Project through the Lead4Change dashboard. This submission includes student work samples, reflections, and photo documentation of the service project. Once approved, you'll receive digital completion certificates. Upon receiving the certificates, record the completion according to your school's IRC submission process.

## **Do I have to teach every lesson for my students to obtain the credential?**

Yes—students must complete all 7 Core Curriculum modules and lead a student-driven service project in order to qualify for the credential. The modules are designed to build skills progressively and meet state expectations for credit-bearing work.

## **What is the difference between a Standard and Plus Project submission?**

- > Standard Project: Great for general participation, classroom recognition, and community impact
- > Plus Project: Required for students to earn credit or be eligible for grants and competitions. It includes more robust documentation and is reviewed by the Lead4Change team. You will select a variety of student work samples to represent each team's submission. Student work must be legible and show thoughtfulness and effort to meet the criteria for approval. If there are issues with the submission, in most cases, you will have the opportunity to try and resolve them.

If you want your students to earn an industry-recognized credential, be sure to select the Plus Pathway when creating your team.

## **Where can I learn more about how this credential fits into Illinois' graduation requirements?**

You can visit the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) website to view the credential (Lead4Change Leadership Certificate).