

Acton Academy

Levers of Control

Below are the four ways we encourage and equip Heroes, parents and Guides to build Learner-Driven Communities¹.

Our Belief System

(A *Belief System* says: “Dare to be great! We are doing something that matters.”)

Our Mission

We believe each person who enters Acton Academy will find a calling that changes the world.

Our Promises

We promise through Socratic guiding and experiential learning to encourage each member of our community to:

- Begin a Hero’s Journey;
- Discover precious gifts and a commitment to mastery;
- Become a curious, independent, life-long learner;
- Embrace the forging of a strong character;
- Cherish the arts, the physical world, and the mysteries of life; and
- Treasure economic, political, and religious freedom.

Our Beliefs

- We believe each person has a gift that can change the world in a profound way.
- We believe in learning to learn, learning to do, and learning to be.
- We believe in a closely connected family of lifelong learners.
- We believe in economic, political, and religious freedom.

Our Educational Philosophy

We believe clear thinking leads to good decisions, good decisions lead to the right habits, the right habits forge character, and character determines destiny.

Our Economic Model

We believe self-directed, peer-to-peer learner-driven communities built by our young Heroes will deliver transformational learning at a cost all parents can afford.

¹ See the Acton Foundation note *Levers of Control* to learn how these tools can be used to build a strong culture.

Our Boundary System

(Boundary Systems say: “You have a great deal of freedom, as long as you stay between these lines.”)

1. Momentary failures and real-world consequences are a natural part of 21st century learning, but shame is not. It is never acceptable to intentionally shame a young Hero, parent, or Guide, or expose them to serious harm.
2. Teaching by lecturing or issuing instructions is not acceptable. A guide’s role is to model behavior that leads to self-directed learning.
3. Guides do not assign grades or rank students but simply ask: “Is that the best you can do?” and invite a student to try again if the answer is “no.”
4. All communications with parents must be transparent to the community so the responsibility for excellence and growth ultimately remains with young Heroes and parents.

Our Diagnostic System

(Diagnostic Systems say: “These are the numbers you need to hit to be rewarded.”)

1. We judge our progress through objective, anonymous surveys open to our entire community that show how well we are delivering on our promises.
2. We measure the cost per young hero transformed to see how peer-to-peer learning and paid apprenticeships can drive down costs.

Our Interactive System

(Interactive Systems say: “You are important as an individual. You deserve to be nurtured and coached to reach your full potential.”)

We collect and share examples, testimonials and experiments so each Guide has the tools, skills, and character required to launch an Acton Academy affiliate.