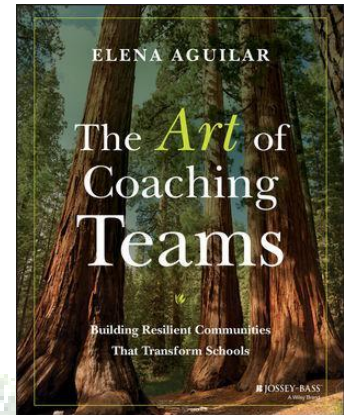


The missing how-to manual for being an effective team leader

The Art of Coaching Teams is the manual you never received when you signed on to lead a team. Being a great teacher is one thing, but leading a team, or team development, is an entirely different dynamic. Your successes are public, but so are your failures—and there's no specific rubric or curriculum to give you direction. Team development is an art form, and this book is your how-to guide to doing it effectively. You'll learn the administrative tasks that keep your team on track, and you'll gain access to a wealth of downloadable tools that simplify the "getting organized" process. Just as importantly, you'll explore what it means to be the kind of leader that can bring people together to accomplish difficult tasks. You'll find practical suggestions, tools, and clear instructions for the logistics of team development as well as for building trust, developing healthy communication, and managing conflict.



Inside these pages you'll find concrete guidance on:

- Designing agendas, making decisions, establishing effective protocols, and more
- Boosting your resilience, understanding and managing your emotions, and meeting your goals
- Cultivating your team's emotional intelligence and dealing with cynicism
- Utilizing practical tools to create a customized framework for developing highly effective teams

There is no universal formula for building a great team, because every team is different. Different skills, abilities, personalities, and goals make a one-size-fits-all approach ineffective at best. Instead, *The Art of Coaching Teams* provides a practical framework to help you develop your group as a whole, and keep the team moving toward their common goals.

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Ten Truths about Building Teams

1. Teams that work in or with schools exist to serve the social, emotional, and academic needs of children.
2. Learning is the primary work of all teams.
3. Who you are as a leader has the greatest influence on a team.
4. All teams exist within systems and power structures.
5. Teams thrive with Trust.
6. Building teams takes time.
7. The health of a meeting reflects the health of the team.
8. A team's collective emotional intelligence is the key factor in its level of performance.



9. Communication between team members is the thread that connects everything.
10. Conflict can be healthy, but unhealthy conflict needs to be managed.

Ms. Aguilar concludes by sharing a story about the Redwoods, "When a redwood dies from natural or unnatural causes, the roots shoot up and grown into new trees forming a ring around the site of the original tree...They are a reminder that death may not be the end we think it is, a reminder that healing and transformation are possible (Aguilar, 295).

