

## **My leadership Style – Amber Clark**

My greatest strength, as a teacher, a leader, and a person, has also been my greatest weakness. This strength – my passion – is also what characterizes my leadership style. As a leader, my passion and faith in my initiative was what inspired others to join me. My passion is also what makes me persevere. Because I believe so strongly in what I do, I don't easily give up and I keep working hard. This was the case for my initiative as well. I might not have made the systemic changes I wanted to, but my passion served me, my students, and my parents.

The downside to being passionate is when things don't work out. Because I feel so strongly about what I do, I feel that everyone else should too. I also take failure very personally and feel devastated when things don't work out. For example, I felt like such a failure when it came to my initiative. Because of my passion, I put so heart into it; when I didn't make the changes I wanted, I blamed myself and felt it was because of my own shortcomings as a leader. Thus, the passion that motivates me is also the passion that torments me.

I think that ultimately, as a leader, I must learn to temper my passion. It truly is a double edged-sword as it inspires me but also causes me heartache. I think the key is to be careful of where I direct my passion. I learned from my initiative that not everyone or everything deserves my passion. Perhaps I also need to be a little more realistic about my achievements. It is okay for my passion to motivate me, but I need to learn to let go when it comes to the actions of others.