

Research on the Core Connotation, Realistic Challenges and Promotion Path of Ideological and Political Leadership in the New Era

Xiong Tian^{1*}

¹ Hainan Vocational University of Science and Technology, Hainan, China

Received: 2 December 2025; **Accepted:** 24 December 2025; **Published:** 12 January 2026

Abstract:

As the core educational characteristics of the socialist education power with Chinese characteristics, the ideological and political leading force is the key support for the implementation of the fundamental task of “cultivating people by virtue.” The 2024 National Education Conference incorporates ideological and political leadership into the core competence system of a strong education country, highlighting its basic position in talent training and high-quality development of education. Based on the theory of synergy and systematic thinking, combined with the new requirements of education development in the new era, this paper systematically interprets the core connotation and characteristics of the times of political leadership from the essence of education and education, and deeply analyzes the practical challenges faced by the current ideological and political leadership construction, such as the insufficient formation of the joint force of education, the restriction of the efficiency of systematic education, and the need to improve the adaptability of the times. From the three dimensions of constructing multiple synergy mechanism, optimizing education organization system and innovating education carrier method, this paper puts forward a targeted improvement path, which provides theoretical reference and practical guidance for building a high-quality ideological and political education system and enhancing the effectiveness of ideological and political education.

Keywords:

Ideological And Political Leading Force, Collaborative Education, Lide Tree People, High-quality Development of Education

1. Introduction

Education is the foundation of the construction of a strong country and the rejuvenation of the nation. Ideological and political education, as the core carrier to implement the fundamental task of moral education, is the soul project of education. With the deepening of education reform, the core position of ideological and political education in the talent training system has become increasingly prominent. The 2024 National Education Conference clearly stated that a strong socialist education country with Chinese characteristics should have six core competencies, such as “strong ideological and political leadership, talent competitiveness, and scientific and

technological support.” [1] Among them, ideological and political leadership is a key indicator to define the educational attributes of a strong education country, which is directly related to the quality and direction of talent training.

At present, China is in a critical period of building a socialist modern country in an all-round way. The value collision under the wave of economic globalization, the cognitive reconstruction in the information age, and the exchange and confrontation of multiculturalism have a profound impact on the shaping of the values of the young generation. In the new era, young people grow up in a networked and digital environment, with diversified channels to acquire knowledge, active ideas and diverse value demands. The formation process of their values presents the characteristics of complexity, long-term and uncertainty. In this context, the traditional ideological and political education model is facing severe challenges. How to achieve accurate and efficient education by strengthening ideological and political leadership has become a major issue to be solved urgently in the development of education in the new era.

2. The Core Connotation and Characteristics of the Times of Ideological and Political Leading Force

Under the background of the new era, the growth environment of young people has undergone profound changes, with more diversified value choices, more three-dimensional growth needs, and more flexible cognitive methods. This not only provides a broad space for the play of ideological and political leadership, but also puts forward new requirements for its core meaning and practical form.

2.1. The core connotation of ideological and political leadership

The leading force of ideological and political education is the concentrated embodiment of the essential function of ideological and political education. It refers to the educational ability to guide the educated to establish correct values, develop good behavior habits, improve comprehensive literacy and gather growth forces through systematic and scientific ideological and political education practice. Starting from the essence of education, its core connotation can be deeply deconstructed from three dimensions :

Value leadership : the core competence of cognitive shaping. Value guidance is the core dimension of ideological and political guidance, which embodies the cognitive shaping function of ideological and political education. Its core is based on the law of adolescent growth and cognitive characteristics, through systematic value education, to guide the educated to distinguish right from wrong, stick to the right way in the collision of multiple values, establish a correct world outlook, outlook on life and values, form the responsibility identity and value consensus of the state, nation and society, and lay a solid cognitive foundation for their all-round development.

Growth empowerment: the supporting ability of comprehensive development. Growth ability is the development dimension of ideological and political leadership, which aims to provide all-round support for the growth and development of the educated. In the face of practical problems such as academic pressure, growth confusion and employment anxiety faced by adolescents in the new era, ideological and political leadership helps educatees to strengthen their confidence in development, overcome growth obstacles, stimulate their subjective initiative and creativity, cultivate a positive attitude towards life, and help them achieve all-round development

through education methods such as ideal and belief education, mental health counseling, and model demonstration and guidance.

Cultural inheritance: the cultivation ability of spiritual nourishment. The cultural inheritance force is the spiritual dimension of the ideological and political leading force, which highlights the cultural education function of ideological and political education. By carrying forward the excellent traditional Chinese culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture, we should guide the educated to feel the cultural charm, enhance cultural self-confidence, inherit the fine tradition, draw spiritual strength, integrate cultural genes into the growth process, and cultivate new people of the times with cultural heritage and feelings of home and country.

2.2. The characteristics of the times of ideological and political leadership

The dialectical unity of systematicness and synergy. The exertion of the leading force of ideological and political education is not an isolated role of a single education link and a single education subject, but a systematic project. From a horizontal perspective, it involves multiple educational fields such as schools, families, society, and networks; from the vertical point of view, covering all sections of primary and secondary schools; from the main point of view, including ideological and political teachers, professional teachers, counselors, parents, social education workers and other multiple subjects. The characteristics of the times are reflected in the coordinated linkage of various educational elements, educational links and educational subjects. Through system integration, the joint force of education is formed to maximize the leading efficiency.

The dynamic unity of tradition and innovation. The leading force of ideological and political education in the new era not only inherits the fine tradition of “self-cultivation and morality” in traditional education in China, but also draws on the advanced experience of ideological and political education at home and abroad, and adheres to the core educational concept of ideological and political education ; based on the new requirements of the development of the times, we actively adapt to the development trend of digitization, networking and intelligence, and use digital technologies and resources such as virtual simulation and digital twins to create teaching scenes, which can break through the limitations of traditional teaching space and realize the combination of virtual and real diversified teaching forms [2]. We should innovate the concept, method and carrier of ideological and political education, combine the advantages of traditional education with modern educational technology, realize the dynamic balance between inheritance and innovation, and enhance the sense of the times and attraction of ideological and political education.

The high unity of theory and practice. The leading force of ideological and political education in the new era is no longer limited to theoretical preaching, but emphasizes the deep integration of theoretical education and practical experience. By constructing the practical teaching system of “big ideological and political course,” combining classroom teaching with social practice, volunteer service, rural revitalization, scientific and technological innovation and other practical activities, we can guide educatees to deepen theoretical cognition, temper moral cultivation and improve their ability and quality in practice, realize the organic unity of theoretical learning and practical exercise, and let ideological and political guidance take root in practice.

3. The Realistic Challenges of the Construction of Ideological and Political Leadership in the New Era

At present, although China's ideological and political leadership construction has achieved certain results, in the key stage of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, in the face of the complex environment of multi-value collision, rapid iteration of technology and upgrading of educational needs, its construction process still faces many practical bottlenecks.

3.1. Education force has not yet fully formed

The educational relationship between teachers and students is one-way. In the traditional ideological and political education, the one-way relationship between teachers and students still exists. Some ideological and political educators still adhere to the role of a condescending preacher, fail to fully respect the dominant position of students, ignore the individual needs and cognitive characteristics of students, and lead to the lack of effective interaction and emotional resonance between teachers and students ; the lack of coordination of ideological and political education team in school. Under the "great ideological and political" education pattern, the ideological and political education team has expanded to multiple groups such as ideological and political teachers, professional teachers, counselors, and administrative personnel. However, there are problems such as insufficient consensus on educational concepts, vague boundaries of responsibilities, and uneven levels of ability within the team. The home-school-community collaborative education mechanism is not perfect. The responsibility boundaries of schools, families and society in ideological and political education are not clear, and the collaborative linkage mechanism is not perfect. In family education, there is a tendency to emphasize scores over morality and material satisfaction over spiritual nourishment, which fails to form an effective connection with school education.

3.2. System education efficiency is restricted

There is a fault in the connection of ideological and political education between different grades. The integration of ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools has been promoted slowly. The content of ideological and political courses in each section is repeated and the gradient is insufficient, and the teaching system of "step by step and spiral rise" has not been formed. In the primary school stage, the cultivation of behavioral norms is emphasized, the enlightenment of ideals and beliefs is emphasized in the middle school stage, and the theoretical in-depth interpretation is emphasized in the university stage. However, there is a lack of effective connection and content coordination among the various stages, which leads to the characteristics of jumping and reverse order in the cultivation of students' values, which affects the continuity and systematicness of ideological and political guidance. The education systems in the school are segmented. The ideological and political education in schools involves multiple subsystems such as teaching, student management, logistics services, and community activities. There is a phenomenon of fragmentation and fragmentation among various systems. The arrangement of ideological and political education activities is often based on the working hours of various departments rather than the law of students' ideological growth, which leads to the fragmentation of educational content and the inconsistency of educational process. For example, the lack of coordination between the classroom education of the

teaching system and the daily management of the student work system makes it difficult to achieve full and all-round education.

3.3. The adaptability of the times needs to be improved

The traditional education carrier is not attractive enough. In the practice of practical education, the value transmission channel is still limited to the one-way indoctrination of the content of teaching materials, and has not yet formed an innovative transformation based on the cognitive characteristics of college students and the context of the times. However, some ideological and political courses have problems such as boring content, single method and solidified form, and fail to design teaching content in combination with students' interest points and hot spots of the times [3]. Traditional thematic class meetings, lecture reports and other forms of activities lack interaction and experience, and it is difficult to meet the needs of young people in the new era for personalized and immersive education; the construction of digital education carrier is not perfect. Although "smart education" has become a development trend, the construction of digital ideological and political education carriers in some schools is still in its infancy. Lack of high-quality digital education resources, lack of targeted and attractive virtual simulation teaching resources, online courses, etc.; the carrier of practical education is out of touch with the actual needs. There are problems of formalization and superficiality in ideological and political practice education activities. Some practical activities lack clear educational objectives and system design. They are mostly carried out in simple forms such as visiting learning and volunteer service, and fail to meet the needs of social reality, students' professional characteristics and growth and development needs. Practice activities are out of touch with theoretical teaching and students' growth needs, which makes it difficult for students to deepen their ideological cognition in practice and affects the effect of knowledge-action transformation.

4. Promotion Path of Ideological and Political Leadership in the New Era

In view of the current challenges in the construction of ideological and political leadership, such as insufficient educational synergy, limited system efficiency, and lack of adaptability to the times, it is urgent to build a scientific, systematic, practical and effective improvement path based on the law of education development and the growth needs of young people in the new era. Effectively enhance the pertinence, effectiveness and sense of the times of ideological and political leadership, and build a solid foundation for ideological and political education for the construction of a strong education country.

4.1. Build a multi-coordination mechanism and unite the joint force of educating people

First, reshape the interactive education relationship between teachers and students. Ideological and political educators should change their role orientation from one-way preachers to collaborative guides and growth companions. Through in-depth student network gathering places, such as B station, Little Red Book, Tik Tok, etc., to understand students' ideological trends and interest hot spots, and build an equal dialogue and interactive communication platform. Interactive teaching methods such as case teaching, scenario simulation, group discussion and project-based learning are adopted to encourage students to actively participate in ideological exchange and

value discussion, so as to form a benign interactive educational relationship between teachers and students.

Secondly, strengthen the coordination of the ideological and political education team in the school. In the process of building a strong country in education, the system integration of ideological and political education work system is not only the key to improving the leading force of ideological and political education, but also the inherent requirement of realizing the high-quality development of education [4]. Set up a “great ideological and political” education team to clarify the responsibility boundary and coordination relationship of different education subjects. Teachers of ideological and political courses focus on systematic value education and theoretical interpretation. Teachers of professional courses deeply explore the ideological and political elements of courses to realize silent education. Counselors are responsible for daily education management and growth guidance, and administrative personnel play a role in service education. Establish a normalized communication and cooperation mechanism, such as regularly holding joint meetings, carrying out collective lesson preparation, organizing education salons, etc., integrating the superior resources of each subject, and forming an education pattern of “clear division of labor, coordinated linkage, and complementary advantages.” At the same time, the implementation of the ideological and political education work team ability improvement plan, through thematic training, teacher studio, cross-school communication, practical training, etc., to comprehensively improve the professional quality and educational ability of the team.

Finally, improve the home-school-community collaborative education system. Construct a collaborative education mechanism of “school-led, family participation, and social support.” Through parents’ meetings, family education guidance lectures, online courses, etc., the school guides parents to establish a correct concept of educating people and improve their family education ability; establish a home-school normalized communication platform, timely feedback on students’ ideological trends and growth, and form an educational consensus. At the social level, the red cultural resources, traditional cultural resources and enterprise practical resources are integrated to form a cross-regional ideological and political education base alliance to provide students with a diversified practical education platform. Through the forms of “teaching association,” “moral education community” and “social education cooperation network,” we can promote the sharing of resources, responsibility sharing and synergy of home, school and society, and form a comprehensive education force.

4.2. Optimize the educational organization system and improve the effectiveness of systematic education

The integration of ideological and political courses in primary and secondary schools is an important channel for ideological and political leadership [5]. On the one hand, promote the integration of ideological and political education in primary and secondary schools. According to the principle of “step by step and spiral rise” [6], the ideological and political education system of each stage is constructed. The core objectives, key contents and implementation paths of ideological and political education in each school stage are clarified. The primary school stage focuses on behavioral norms and moral enlightenment education. The middle school stage strengthens the education of ideals and beliefs and value identity. The university stage deepens theoretical cognition and practical innovation education. Establish a cross-section ideological and political education teaching and research mechanism, carry

out collective lesson preparation, teacher exchange, teaching observation and other activities, unify the goal of educating people, link up teaching content, share high-quality resources, and ensure the continuity and systematicness of ideological and political guidance. On the other hand, build a dynamic education organization operation mechanism. Optimize the organizational structure of ideological and political education work, establish a leading group of ideological and political education work, and coordinate the ideological and political education work of various systems such as teaching, student management, logistics services, and community activities; establish a dynamic operation mechanism of “rapid response and flexible adjustment”. Using big data technology to build a dynamic monitoring and analysis platform for students “thoughts, timely capture students” ideological changes and hot demands, and adjust education programs and teaching contents in a targeted manner ; establish an emergency response mechanism for ideological and political education, respond quickly and effectively to network public opinion, emergencies, etc., and ensure the timeliness and effectiveness of education guidance.

4.3. Innovate the carrier method of ideological and political education and enhance the adaptability of the times

First of all, deepen the reform of classroom teaching carrier. Create a “high-quality, interactive, life-oriented” ideological and political classroom. First, optimize the teaching content, organically integrate the hot spots of the times, social reality, students’ real life and the core content of ideological and political education, and design teaching cases that are close to students, life and the times; the second is to innovate teaching methods, and widely use flipped classroom, blended teaching, case teaching, situational teaching, inquiry learning and other methods to enhance classroom interaction and attraction; the third is to promote the collaborative construction of “ideological and political courses + ideological and political courses,” establish a collaborative innovation center, develop ideological and political teaching guidelines and case libraries for various professional courses, promote all kinds of courses and ideological and political courses to go hand in hand, and realize the organic unity of knowledge transfer and value guidance.

Secondly, build a digital ideological and political education carrier. We will promote the construction of “smart ideological and political” and enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of ideological and political guidance. First, develop high-quality digital education resources, make virtual simulation teaching courseware, ideological and political micro-videos, online MOOCs, interactive small games, etc., to meet students’ personalized learning needs; the second is to build a big data analysis and precise push platform. By analyzing students’ network behavior, learning data, growth files, etc., we can accurately grasp students’ ideological trends and growth needs, and realize the precise education push of “thousands of people and thousands of faces”; the third is to strengthen the construction of network ideological and political education positions, open official accounts on the social media platforms where students gather, publish positive energy education content, carry out online interactive communication activities, guide network public opinion, and create a clear network education space.

Finally, expand the carrier of practical education. Build a “diversified, normalized and effective” practical education system. The first is to meet the needs of social reality, implement the “ideological and political +” integration of industry and education, school-local cooperation plan, organize students to participate in rural

revitalization practice, community governance service, scientific and technological innovation and other practical projects; the second is to integrate all kinds of high-quality resources, establish a number of stable ideological and political education practice bases, and carry out immersive and experiential education activities, so that students can understand the value and temper their morality in practice. The third is to encourage the normalization of voluntary service, incorporate voluntary service into the evaluation system of students' comprehensive quality, establish the credit system of voluntary service, and guide students to improve their quality and increase their talents in serving the society.

5. Conclusions

With the continuous advancement of the construction of a strong education country, the construction of ideological and political leadership will face new opportunities and challenges. In the future, it is necessary to continue to deepen the understanding of the essential laws of ideological and political leadership education, constantly innovate educational concepts, methods and carriers, improve the mechanism of collaborative education, consolidate the foundation of institutional guarantee, and comprehensively enhance the ideological and political leadership, so as to provide strong support for cultivating new people in the era of all-round development and comprehensively promoting the high-quality development of education.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

References

- [1] Ministry of Education. At the National Education Conference, he emphasized that we should make solid progress towards the strategic goal of building a strong education country by closely focusing on the fundamental task of Lide Shuren. Available online: http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/s6052/moe_838/202409/t20240910_1150246.html (accessed on 10 September 2025).
- [2] Zhou, J. The realistic challenge and realization path of digital technology enabling ideological and political education in higher vocational colleges. *Journal of Qingdao Ocean Shipping Mariners Vocational College*, 2025, 46(04), 53-57.
- [3] Liu, X.W.; Liu, X.F. Enlightening wisdom and moistening heart: the value guidance and practical path of college students' cultural self-confidence cultivation. *Xinjiang Social Science Forum*, 1-10. Available online: <https://link.cnki.net/urlid/65.1146.C.20251211.2127.002>
- [4] Jie, B.Y.; Sun, J. Research on the ideological and political leading force in the coordination of "six forces" under the construction of a powerful country in education. *Journal of Northwest Adult Education College*, 2026, 01, 92-98. DOI: 10.20012 / j.cnki.ISSN1008-8539.2026.01.013.

- [5] Wang, C.Y.; Hong, Z.X. Strengthen the consciousness of the Chinese nation community with strong ideological and political leadership-based on the perspective of building a strong education country. *Heilongjiang Education (Theory and Practice)*, 2025, 12, 1-4.
- [6] Ke, Z.J.; Zhang, H. The value prospect, theoretical interpretation and promotion path of ideological and political leadership from the perspective of education power. *Journal of China West Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 2025, 04, 121-132. DOI: 10.16246/j.cnki.51-1674/c.20250415.002.



© 2026 by the author(s); licensee International Technology and Science Publications (ITS), this work for open access publication is under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0). (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)