## Supporting Student Ownership at Home

### A Toolkit for Teachers



#### Supporting Student Ownership at Home A Toolkit for Teachers www.ElevatedAchievement.com

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### Supporting Student Ownership at Home

Many students believe that learning only takes place within the confines of a school building. But we know that learning, and the skills of learning, transcend beyond the classroom walls. In today's environment, this has become especially clear as instructional delivery has shifted from the classroom to the home and to a hybrid of both. The *where* and *how* our children's schooling is ever-changing.

However, our charge and commitment remain the same—to educate our students to the best of our abilities. The good news is the decisions about what our children need to learn and what we can do to support our children's learning are in our hands. The better news is we are not alone. Parents and caregivers can be empowered to support their children. The best news is that the students themselves are the most effective advocates for their learning when they have the skills to own it.



### **Why Taking Ownership Matters**

The choices we make today will affect our students for years to come. If we are astute in our decision-making, decisions that foster student ownership, we can create the most independent group of learners ever developed.

After over twenty-five years in education, we at Elevated Achievement Group have seen all types of students take ownership of their learning. These students are not merely passengers in their education but active participants. Taking ownership allows them to increase their academic achievement across the board—not just in a specific content area and not just in the physical classroom.

John Hattie (2009) showed us that students who own their learning are more motivated to learn, and those students who are more motivated to learn actually learn more: "...it is the students themselves, in the end, not teachers, who decide what students will learn. Thus we must attend to what students are thinking, what their goals are, and why they would want to engage in learning what is offered in schools."

True success in education requires that students go beyond just *doing* or *understanding* school—the must *own* their learning. A student who owns their learning can state what they are learning and why, can explain how they learn best, can articulate when they are learning and when they are struggling and understands their role in any academic setting.

Thus, student ownership is best defined as a mindset. Students with an ownership mindset know they have the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility to own their learning.



# Delegating the Authority, the Capacity, and the Responsibility to Your Learners

Student ownership is a skill that can be directly taught and mastered. It can be developed in any learning environment, be it virtual, blended, or in-person. But, student ownership is almost impossible to develop without teachers. Teachers play a crucial role in ensuring that students recognize their role in learning and that parents and caregivers recognize their role in supporting their child.

How can we as teachers support our students to cultivate an ownership mindset? By delegating the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility to them.



Successful students will have the authority to make decisions regarding how they learn. This means that, when students are learning something new, they have the authority to determine what they need in order to master that skill—for example, frequency and types of practice, specific opportunities to authentically apply learning, and more opportunities to transfer learning into new situations. It is the role of the teachers to ensure that students have the authority to make decisions about how they learn.

Students must also have the capacity to own their learning. They build their capacity when teachers provide them with the knowledge and skills to challenge themselves and self-reflect on their growth. These are the skills that lead to metacognition. Capacity is built by supplying students with the skills needed to succeed, sharing why they need them, and explaining how they will use them in their current and future learning. It is the role of teachers to ensure that students have the capacity to analyze and reflect on their own learning.

Finally, students must have the responsibility to be held accountable for their own academic achievements. Students must understand their role in their learning in any environment and take responsibility for their successes as well as their mistakes. But they can't be held responsible if they have no understanding of what they are learning how they will be taught and how they will demonstrate their learning.

So, how does a teacher build the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility needed for student ownership? A teacher must model the thinking behind the ownership, explicitly teach the skills of ownership, and, most importantly, be willing to delegate the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility to the students.

### **Using This Book**

Grounded in a variety of research about what best supports students to increase ownership of their learning, we have developed these resources to support educators, students, and families in ensuring that learning continues anytime, anyplace, and in any format, thereby fostering student ownership.

#### This book includes support for owning:

- 1. What They Are Learning
- 2. How They Are Learning
- 3. How Well They Are Learning
- 4. Taking Risks as They Are Learning
- 5. Their Reading
- 6. Their Mathematics
- 7. How to Reflect on Their Learning

For each skill there are resources for teachers, students, and parents and caregivers. Each resource provides:



The learning context for the skill, aka why this learning is important,



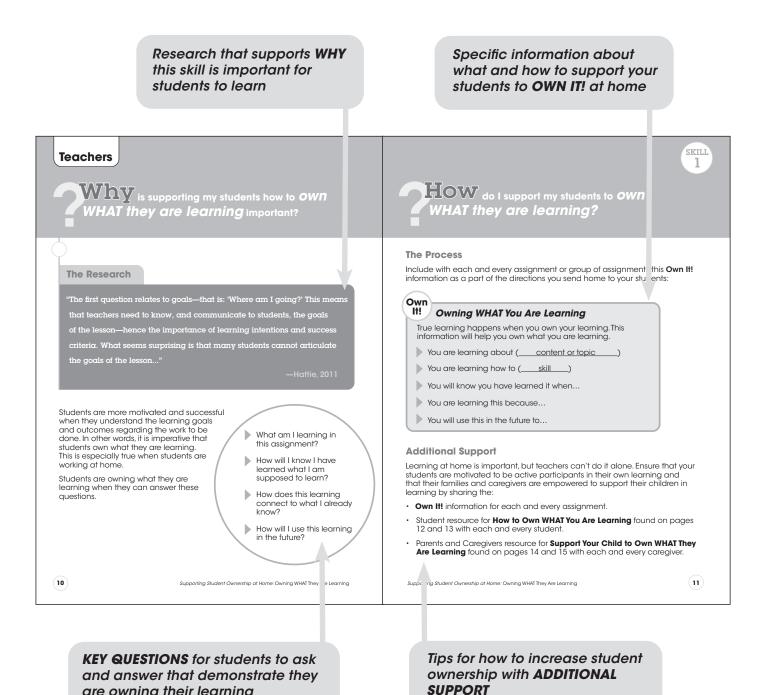
V The process for how to implement and master the skill, and



Additional supports for ensuring the learning continues.

### **Using the Teacher Resources**

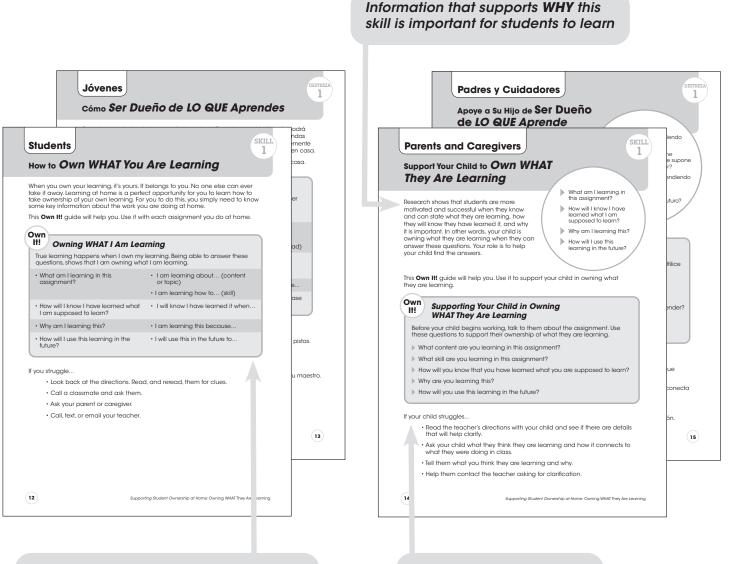
Use these pages when planning for the assignments you send home. Then include the **Own It!** information and the related student and parents and caregivers resources with each and every assignment.



are owning their learning

# Using the Student and Parents and Caregiver Resources

Send these pages home to each and every student and their parents and caregivers with your related **Own It!** information for the assignment.



**OWN IT!** guides for students and parents and caregivers that support what to do and provide conversation starters that build student ownership Additional support tips if students **STRUGGLE**