

# 2021 Learning Acceleration Resources



## What Is the Difference Between Student Engagement and Student Ownership?

Student engagement and student ownership are terms that are often used interchangeably in education. While both are critical to learning acceleration efforts, student engagement is a lower-level goal and is not our highest learning destination. Our goal is to reach student ownership.

Student engagement reflects what students are “doing” and “understanding” about their learning. Student ownership takes that learning a step further. When students own their learning, they know how to apply what they are learning in different contexts and take responsibility for their progress and success. If students don’t own their learning, accelerating their learning will prove more difficult. So, **what does “student ownership” look like?**

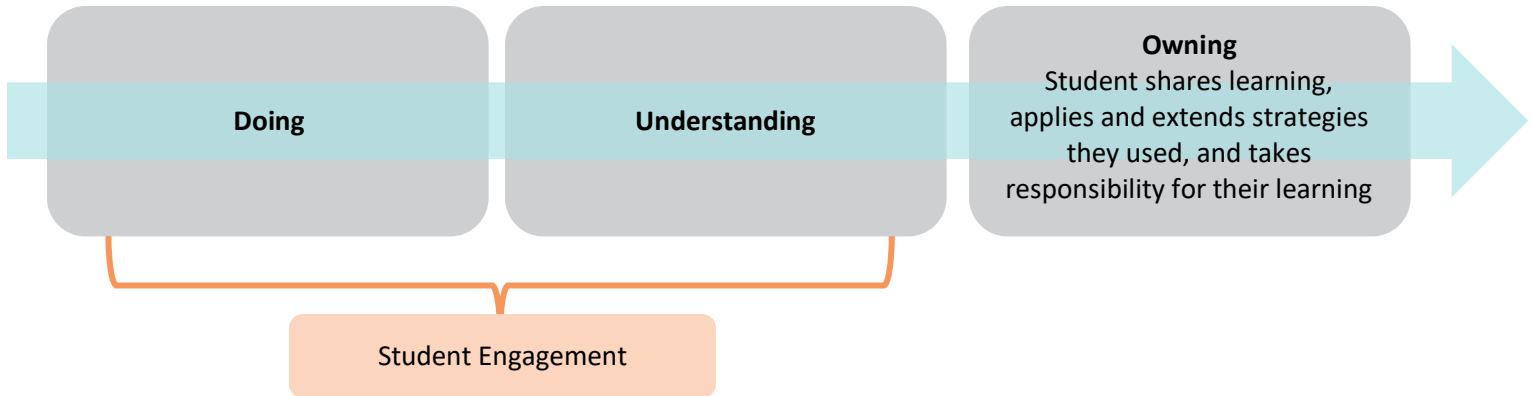
## Defining Student Ownership

Student ownership is evident when students can articulate what they are learning, why they are learning, strategies that support their learning, and how they will use these strategies in the future. The table below outlines what students are doing at each part of the progression from doing to owning.

Student learning phase	What could this look and sound like?
<b>Students doing:</b> Students are working on the activity	A student is <b>doing</b> when they can state how they would complete the task in front of them and then act accordingly. They are engaged but not necessarily learning.
<b>Students understanding:</b> Students are engaging in thinking and learning	A student is <b>understanding</b> when they can explain what they are engaged in and why; therefore, we see and hear a shift to being engaged in their learning.
<b>Students owning:</b> Students are accurately sharing their learning and the strategies they can use and apply while taking responsibility for outcomes	A student is <b>owning</b> what and how they are learning when they can articulate the strategy they are currently using to learn, how this strategy supports their learning, and how they will use this strategy in the future.

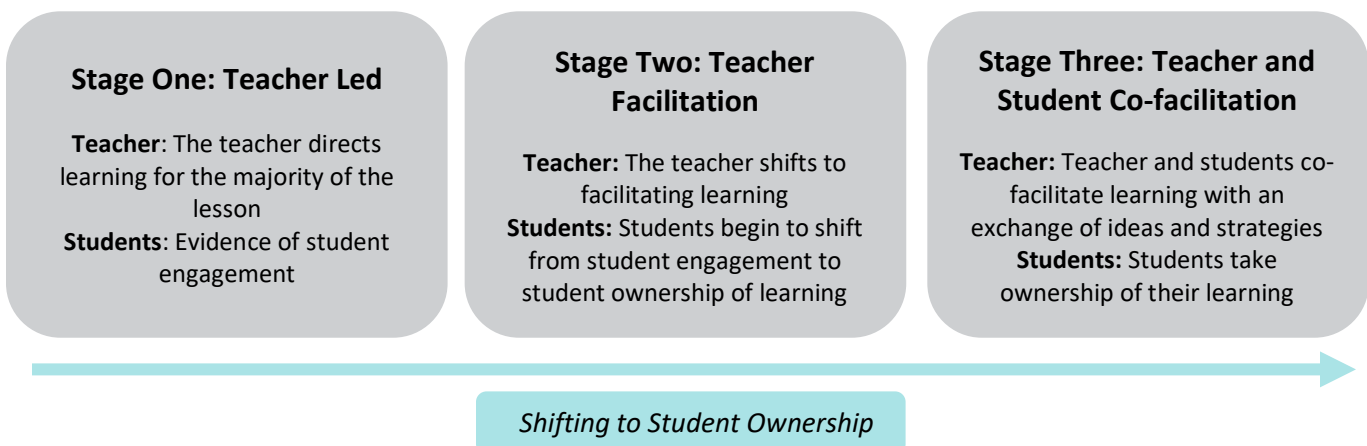
## Progressing from Student Engagement to Student Ownership

Student engagement is exemplified through doing and understanding. Student ownership is when teachers and students co-facilitate the learning. When students are owning their learning, they are doing more than just engaging: **They are actively taking a role in leading their learning.** When this happens, the teacher serves more as a guide for students to take them further.



## How Teachers Foster Student Ownership

What are the teacher actions that shift students from doing to owning their learning? Student ownership begins when the teacher examines the standards and content, including their curriculum, from the students' point of view. As students move from doing to owning their learning, the teacher also shifts from directing learning for the majority of the time to co-leading learning alongside students. In the graphic below, instruction moves from being teacher-led to joint ownership as students take on additional responsibility of the learning process. **This instructional shift also reflects a move from proficient to exemplary teaching where high-quality instruction is equated with fostering student ownership.**



Over the next several weeks, NIET will release more resources on what it looks like to put this shift into action. To stay posted on the latest resources to foster student ownership and connect to learning acceleration, please visit [our website](#).