# Southern Strategic Plan 2024-2029



## 2024- 2029 Strategic Planning Team

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<sup>\*\*</sup> A special thank you to this team who gave several hours of their time to ensure we have the mission and plan that will drive our district forward. May you see your legacy in this plan.

#### Mission:

Southern School District; a small-school community with big opportunities, empowers and engages students in educational, extracurricular, and real-world experiences that develop responsible, respectful, and productive citizens.

#### Motto:

The Southern School District... a small-school community with big opportunities.

#### **Belief Statements:**

We believe all staff and students have the right to a learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement by ensuring everyone is emotionally, socially, and physically safe.

We believe in fostering the growth of our students in a technological world by integrating the tools of today to prepare them for the future.

We believe in helping students learn the value of leadership and how to become independent, problem-solving thinkers in society.

We believe in stewarding a growth mindset by supporting staff and students in becoming lifelong learners.

We believe our staff are valuable role models that empower our students to become responsible, respectful, and safe citizens.

#### Parameters:

We will recruit, hire, and retain quality staff with high expectations for all students and who demonstrate Southern's core values and beliefs.

We will ensure open communication with district staff, patrons, and the community and provide opportunities to express ideas and concerns.

We will value staff input in decision-making for students' well-being, academics, and safety.

We will make decisions in the best interest of our students to provide a well-rounded education for each student through various curricular and extracurricular activities.

We strive to provide the resources and materials necessary for staff and students to be successful.

# **Objectives-**

Facilities- All students will be provided a safe, maintained, and modern facility to support all academic and extracurricular endeavors.

Communication- Each student and family will be provided clear communication that will make each stakeholder feel valued and supported.

Activity Engagement- All students will be involved in activities or clubs beyond the classroom.

Mental Health- Each student will receive needed resources that ensure physical, mental, and emotional health supported by highly trained and caring staff members resulting in increased student growth.

Academics- All students will be provided high quality instruction and opportunities in a variety of subject matter.

## Strategies-

Communication- We will communicate the SPS story to engage stakeholders, current staff and attract new staff

Activity Engagement- We will get all students involved in activities and/or clubs in order to strengthen their character and leadership.

Mental Health/Behavioral Health- We will research, design, and support the implementation of programs that develop physical, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment to encourage positive behavior and culture where all staff and students feel valued, known, supported and safe.

Facilities- We will provide facilities, infrastructure, and technology necessary to achieve our mission.

Academics- We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.

Strategy #1- Communication-We will communicate the SPS story to engage stakeholders, current staff and attract new staff.

Strategy#	1	We will communicate the SPS story to engage stakeholders, current staff and attract new staff					
Action Plan #	1						
Specific Result Statement		Develop a system to enhance the remembers.	cruitment,	hiring, and	retention o	f quality staff	
#	Action	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1	are	earch what other, similar schools doing to recruit, hire, and retain lity staff members.					
2	pacl	npare and evaluate benefit kages available in other school ems.					
3		ermine opportunities to increase the rage years of service within the rict.					
4		Explore appropriate incentives to attract new staff.					
5	men	tinue to provide and enhance a storing program for new teachers as as paras.					
6		lement and develop collaborative port for all staff.					
7		lore opportunities to attract new chers at job fairs.					
8		Examine the use of an exit conversation and a stay conversation.					
9	stud	Explore opportunities to "recruit" college students to student teach or do practicum experiences at Southern.					
10	this	will determine the effectiveness of plan by monitoring the retention of all staff members.					

this plan by monitoring the retention rate of all staff members.				
	Positi	on Respons	ible for Action	n Plan:

Strategy#	1	We will communicate the SPS story to engage stakeholders, current staff and attract new staff					
Action Plan #	2						
Specific Result Statement		Develop and research various mear patron engagement.	ns of comn	nunication	to foster pa	arent and	
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1	com	ate a baseline of current nmunication being used to engage parents and patrons.					
2	tech	earch emerging and existing anologies of communication for our ents and patrons.					
3	disc	age parents and patrons in sussion regarding preferred methods ommunication.					
4	Sou	earch how similar schools to thern are communicating with their munities.					
5	met	Evaluate the effectiveness of current methods of communication to our parents and patrons.					
6	(Cla	Train new staff members on the means (Class Intercom) of communicating messages to our parents and patrons.					
7	Provide refresher training on the various communication platforms being used at Southern.						
8	effe met	will strive to evaluate the ctiveness of our communication hods by observing parent and on responses.					

methods by observing parent and patron responses.				
	Positio	on Respons	ible for Actio	n Plan:

Strategy#	1	We will communicate the SPS story to engage stakeholders, current staff and attract new staff						
Action Plan #	3							
Specific Result Statement		Explore and research methods to ex	cpand trans	sparency to	the comm	unity.		
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date		
1	com	Determine preferred methods of communication with parents at the beginning of each school year.						
2	pare	Investigate possibilities to increase parent participation in parent-teacher conferences.						
4		vide the public the protocols for how oing grades are posted for the rict.						
4	Explore opportunities to bring parents to school and provide information about grade level expectations, communication expectations, and creating a positive community among our parents.							
5	effe met	will strive to evaluate the ctiveness of our communication hods by observing parent and on responses.						

Position Responsible for Action Plan:

Strategy#	1	We will communicate the SPS story to engage stakeholders, current staff and attract new staff.					
Action Plan #	4						
Specific Result Statement		Develop a branding strategy to prom	note the So	outhern Pul	olic Schools	story.	
#	Action	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1	Crea	ate a brand strategy staff team.					
2		ne and determine the Southern nd values.					
3	Use brar	our mission tagline to support our nd.					
4	Crea	ate and post mission posters.					
5		lore other means of communicating our community.					
6		ntify the uniqueness of Southern and mote it.					
7	Pror brar	mote and market the Southern nd.					
8	effe met	We will strive to evaluate the effectiveness of our communication methods by observing parent and patron responses.					

	Position Responsible for Action Plan:

S t r a t e g y #	We will communicate the SPS sattract new staff	We will communicate the SPS story to engage stakeholders, current staff and attract new staff				
COSTS		BENEFITS				
Tangible:  O Website O Class Intercon O Costs associat	n ed with Branding	<ul> <li>Tangible:</li> <li>Improved Communication</li> <li>More Transparency</li> <li>Develops a Brand for the District</li> </ul>				
Intangible:		Intangible:				
o Time		Parents/patrons feel aware of and involved in Southern's story.				

Strategy #2- Activity
Engagement- We will get all students involved in activities and/or clubs in order to strengthen their character and leadership.

Strategy#	2	We will get all students involved in activities, clubs, and career exploration in order to strengthen their character and leadership					
Action Plan #	1						
Specific Result Statement		We will increase participation in acti achievement.	vities in or	der to build	d student ch	aracter and	
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1	an a	earch the importance of being active in ctivity. (how was your day at school?, evelopmental assets)					
2		earch and communicate our current cipation numbers in activities.					
3	scho	Communicate with and/or visit other schools that have good activity participation numbers.					
4		Look at current recruitment efforts within the district.					
5	Expl	ore expansion of recruitment efforts.					
6		elop an action plan based upon the arch from #1.					
7		ement an activity engagement team of members.					
8		Develop a systematic process to include parents on activities' schedules.					
9		Require a parent meeting at the begin of all activities' seasons (not just sports).					
10		Evaluate the current activity offerings, and explore the feasibility of those activities.					
11	incre	ed upon school enrollment figures, ease the number of students involved in ast one activity by10% per year.					

Strategy#	2	We will get all students involved in activities, clubs, and career exploration in order to strengthen their character and leadership				
Action Plan #	2					
Specific Result Statement		We will strengthen school pride through school activities by developing and hos				
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date
1		elop a system for communicating rities' results.				
2		ect data on student attendance and munity member attendance.				
3	activ	ide supplemental events at current rities to bolster attendance. (ice cream als, soup suppers, etc.)				
4		de level attendance competitions at ous activities.				
5		r "freebies" at activities for attending or participating in something while e.				
6		rts teams implement activities at the nentary school to spark interest in that t.				
7		elop plan for transporting high school to elementary, or vice versa.				
8		ore barriers as to why community nbers/families aren't coming to events.				
9		ore ways to be able to allow free ndance to activities/events.				
10		ore business/organization sponsors for rities/events.				
11		ore what the "events" can be that are tenticing to families.				

12		ease student/community participation ndance by 10% per year							
			Positi	on Respons	ible for Action	n Plan:			
Strategy#	2	We will get all students involved in activities, clubs, and career explorat order to strengthen their character and leadership							
Action Plan #	3								
Specific Result Statement		We will enhance and strengthen car	We will enhance and strengthen career exploration for K-12 students.						
# Actio		on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date			
1		relop a K-12 process for career loration.							
2		estigate current methods of career loration.							
3		lore options for expanding ortunities for visits/career fairs/field							
4		ate a systematic plan for inviting st speakers into our district.							
5		ate a systematic plan for going out n-person field experiences.							
6	Assign various certified staff m to make contact with one gues speaker/field experience.								
7	Implement a system for all students to have a "5-year" personal learning plan								
8	Create a clear plan for career exploration at the elementary building (Junior Achievement, Banking in Schools, Career Readiness Skills).								
9	Ехр	lore and support JAG opportunities							

10	We will evaluate this result through participation numbers in career readiness opportunities.		

	Position Responsible for Action Plan

S t r a t e g y #	We will get all students involved in activities and/or clubs in order to strengthen heir character and leadership.			
COSTS		BENEFITS		
Tangible:		Tangible:		
o Substitute teacher	st to career fairs and field trips pay	Increase student involvement		
Intangible:		Intangible:		
<ul><li>Time for research</li><li>Scheduling events</li></ul>		<ul> <li>Student readiness for the workforce</li> <li>Develop leadership</li> <li>Build resiliency &amp; Stamina</li> <li>Development of soft skills</li> </ul>		

Strategy #3- Mental Health/Behavioral Health- We will research, design, and support the implementation of programs that develop physical, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment to encourage positive behavior and culture where all staff and students feel valued, known, supported and safe.

Strategy#	3	We will research, design, and support the implementation of programs that develop physical, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment to encourage positive behavior and culture where all staff and students feel valued, known, supported and safe.					
Action Plan #	1						
Specific Result Statement		Develop and implement an MTSS-b	ehavior pl	an.			
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1	Dete	ermine staff and student mental health ds.					
2	staff	ermine and explore resources(more s/specialized trained staff) available to cort mental health needs.					
3		lore and establish a district wide PBIS em (i.e. student recognition & reward).					
4		earch, identify, and implement best tices of tier I, II, and III interventions.					
5		elop consistent communication with ents regarding students.					
6		tify and involve support services to ement MTSS-B.					
7		elop a system of communication for ents regarding PBIS.					
8	strat	sider site visits to investigate behavior tegies and models and consider sion and implementation of some of e ideas.					
9	the o	plan will be evaluated by monitoring decrease in behavioral referrals and/or number of students who need these ices decrease.					
				Position Res	sponsible for	Action	

Strategy#	3	We will research, design, and support the implementation of programs that develop physical, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment to encourage positive behavior and culture where all staff and students feel valued, known, supported and safe.				
Action Plan #	2					
Specific Result Statement		Developing a systematic approach t staff.	o addressi	ng mental	health of stu	idents and
#	Action	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date
1	othe	npare licensed mental health staffing for r schools and evaluated the need for eased services.				
2		earch and determine the use of eners.				
3		ermine barriers present in students that ct learning.				
4	of st	mine ways to support the mental health aff(support/additional staff specially ed in these issues).				
5		nmunicate to students and parents 2HelpNE resources.				
6		elop community resources for families ide of school.				
7	in st	ore ways to develop grit and resilience udents to assist in ways to increase cipation.				
8		elop ways to celebrate staff and mental th trainings.				
9	Investigate root causes of absenteeism, analyze what other districts are doing to address absenteeism and consider supports that the school can provide.					
10	perc	plan will be evaluated through eption data students and staff will feel dabout coming to work and school.				

Position Action P	Responsible lan:	for

Strategy#	3	develop physical, social, and emotion environment to encourage positive to	Ve will research, design, and support the implementation of programs that levelop physical, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment to encourage positive behavior and culture where all staff and tudents feel valued, known, supported and safe.				
Action Plan #	3						
Specific Result Statement		Explore the usage and dangers of u	sing socia	l media and	d phone use	e by students.	
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1	und and	earch and develop an erstanding of the use of cell phones social media on the mental health tudents.					
2		ermine the need for and establish ool wide policies for cell phone use.					
3	pho	nmunicate expectations of cell ne and social media use of students arents.					
4	that	lore the use of systems to ensure safe and appropriate content is d on school devices.					
5		relop a plan and educate students he effects of social media.					
6	whe eng	cher observations will evaluate other or not students appear more aged and achieve higher academic cess in the classroom.					

success in the classroom.				
	Position	Responsible	e for Action F	Plan:
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Strategy#	3	We will research, design, and support the implementation of programs that develop physical, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment to encourage positive behavior and culture where all staff and students feel valued, known, supported and safe.				
Action Plan #	4					
Specific Result Statement		Develop strategies to address and p	revent dis	ruptive stud	dent behavio	or.
#	Actio	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date
1		lore and implement a districtwide avior model.				
2		port and investigate level 3 graming for students in grades PK-8				
3	Explore options that could become an alternative for the BEST program in Lincoln.					
4	Explore different professional development over de-escalation techniques to all staff members					
5		lore the implementation of the ence grant program in our district.				
6		I ways to recruit, train, and retain lity paraprofessional support staff.				
7		Provide professional development over trauma informed instruction				
8	root	port professional development over cause analysis and teaching with erty in mind				
9	strat	luate the effectiveness of our tegies to address and prevent uptive student behavior				

poverty in mind				
Evaluate the effectiveness of our strategies to address and prevent disruptive student behavior				
	Position F	Responsible	for Action Pla	an:

	S t r a t e g y # ::		We will research, design, and support the implementation of programs that develop physical, social, and emotional health in a secure and nurturing environment to encourage positive behavior and culture where all staff and students feel valued, known, supported and safe.				
C	OSTS			BENEFITS			
_	angible: Cost of train Qualified S Subs for ob	taff	ons	Tangible:  Students will be at school available to learn.  Teaches will be able to focus more on instruction.  Students will be present in the classroom more often  More IEP/MDT's will have supports/accommodations met			
In	Initial stress programs	s during	for training g transition to new locate PD resources	Intangible:  Student's overwhelming feelings will be addressed.  Students will be happier to be at school.  Teachers will have less stress/be happier at school  Retention of staff			

Strategy #4 - Facilities- We will provide facilities, infrastructure, and technology necessary to achieve our mission.

Strategy#	4	We will provide facilities, infrastructure, and technology necessary to achieve our mission.						
Action Plan #	1							
Specific Result Statement		Evaluate current facility safety conce where possible.	erns and id	dentify solu	tions and in	nplement		
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date		
1	safe	luate current safety trends and ety standards across Nebraska and United States						
2	aud prad	luate the annual safety and security it of the facilities and enhance audit ctices through exploration of other ricts' forms and practices.						
3	exp	luate current safety trainings and lore future trainings related to safety ., stop the bleed)						
4	stak	rm both internal and external seholders the necessity of safety security in our school buildings.						
5		ntify the highest priority of future ety film on facility windows .						
6	safe	earch the possibility of local or state ety grant funding to help sustain dern safety facilities .						
7	com	luate our current buildings pared to prevailing safety trends/ pletion of safety projects						

compared to prevailing safety trends/ completion of safety projects					
		Position	on Respons	sible for Actio	n Plan:
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Strategy#	4	We will provide facilities, infrastructure, and technology necessary to achieve our mission.						
Action Plan #	2							
Specific Result Statement		Align resources, facilities, and techn district to maximize and enhance the				across the		
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date		
1	opti facil safe	lore and implement effective ons for maintaining our current lities and infrastructure (e.g., fire ety, ADA, code requirements, & rnet capacity)						
2	tech nee	ze ESU 5 staff to complete ongoing nology audits of future technology ds related to software, hardware, & astructure updates						
3		get and plan for future building ntenance projects over the next 5 rs						
4	nee	ter community understanding of the d to maintain our current facilities technology infrastructure						
5	stay	t other school districts' facilities to up-to-date on modern ntenance strategies						
6		lore funding sources to complete ntenance needs within the district.						
7	_	luate the effectiveness of the rict's maintenance plan						

Evaluate the effectiveness of the district's maintenance plan				
	Posit	tion Respons	sible for Action	n Plan:

Strategy#	4	We will provide facilities, infrastructure, and technology necessary to achieve our mission.						
Action Plan #	3							
Specific Result Statement		Provide facility upgrades that meet to of our community.	he educat	ional, safet	y, and equi	ty demands		
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date		
1	impı	nplete a comprehensive facility rovement plan & complete a facility sparency plan						
2		lore, evaluate and recommend rades related to a new bus barn						
3	upg	lore, evaluate and recommend rades related to an upgraded itorium						
4	upg	lore, evaluate and recommend rades related to an upgraded 7-12 nce lab						
5		lore, evaluate and recommend rades related to a new track						
6		lore, evaluate and recommend rades related to a new gym						
7.		lore playground equipment for elementary.						
8	upg	Explore, evaluate and recommend upgrades related to a new technology software, hardware, and hardware						
9		luate the effectiveness of the rict's maintenance plan						
10		luate the effectiveness of the rict's facility improvement plan						

Position Responsible for Action Plan:

S t r a t e mission.	nfrastructure, and technology necessary to achieve our
COSTS	BENEFITS
Tangible:	Tangible:
<ul> <li>Money for projects</li> <li>Could need more staff for technology</li> <li>Maintenance cost if we have more gym space</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Students will have safe and enjoyable facility</li> <li>Expanded gym space for student use</li> <li>Would be able to hold more tournaments if we have more gym space</li> <li>Could benefit youth teams and wrestling</li> </ul>
Intangible:	Intangible:
<ul> <li>Time to develop projects</li> <li>Time for writing grants</li> <li>Increase taxes for upgrades</li> <li>Could cause ill will in the community with a failed bond issue</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Save time with we could have more practices</li> <li>Stakeholders would take more pride in the school district</li> </ul>

Strategy #5- Academics- We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.

Strategy#	5	We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.					
Action Plan #	1						
Specific Result Statement		We will implement a systemic and si regards to core instruction.	ystematic	districtwide	e MTSS pro	ocess in	
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1	core	luate the effectiveness of tier one or e instruction through the use of lity checks					
2	Ехр	lore different dual credit offerings.					
3	_	luate our current instructional model review implementation strategies					
4	Dev	ate and implement a Professional elopment (PD) plan directly linked ne strategic plan					
5		rove differentiation and scaffolding ctices to meet more students' ds.					
6	ach ELA	lyze why 80% of students are not leving grade level benchmarks in & math and develop a plan to ress these areas.					
7		lore and implement Reading Across Content Areas.					
8		luate and analysis the effectiveness er one instruction					

Position Responsible for Action Plan:

Strategy#	5	We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.					
Action Plan #	2						
Specific Result Statement		We will implement a systemic and s regards to tier two intervention.	ystematic	districtwide	MTSS prod	cess in	
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date	
1		luate the effectiveness of tier two ruction.					
2	curr	luate the effectiveness of our rent interventions in tier two ruction.					
3		cate all staff on tier two instruction ectations at the various grade					
4		earch alternatives related to ding and math interventions.					
5	imp	Provide resources and support staff to implement appropriate remedial strategies.					
6	of ti	luate and analyze the effectiveness er two instruction through student eased student growth in Tier II rventions.					

Position Responsible for Action Plan:

Strategy#	5	We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.						
Action Plan #	3							
Specific Result Statement		We will implement a systemic and syregards to tier three intervention.	ystematic	districtwide	MTSS prod	cess in		
#	Acti	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date		
1	_	luate the effectiveness of tier three ruction.						
2		luate the effectiveness of our cial education tier three instruction.						
3		need to examine deficit thinking sus growth mindset thinking						
4		luate and enhance our professional elopment for tier three intervention.						
5	betv and to m	luate and enhance the collaboration veen general education teachers special education teachers in order neet inclusion plans and IEP uirements.						
6	impl	vide resources and support staff to lement appropriate tier three tegies.						
7	of tie	luate and analyze the effectiveness er three instruction through student levement.						

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Position Responsible for Action Plan:

Strategy#	5	We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.				
Action Plan #	4					
Specific Result Statement		Students will have a variety of learning experiences to increase engagement.				gement.
#	Actio	on Steps	Assigned to	Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date
1	Evaluate whether students are gaining the soft skills necessary for success (career-readiness skills).					
2	to he	earch what other districts are using elp students reach the career-diness skills they need.				
3	CTE	vey local businesses to see what courses would best prepare lents to fit their needs.				
4	Determine what additional elective courses would be needed to support student needs.					
5	Investigate research-based models that will enhance the tools we are currently using.					
6	Explore/research ways to increase hands on learning opportunities for students both in the classroom and outside the classroom when possible.					
7	peei	Research best practices to engage peer to peer collaboration to enhance learning.				
8.	mas requ plac	aluate whether students have astered the CTE standards Nebraska quires through 80% initial job acement of students going directly to the workforce.				

into the workforce.				
	Positi	on Respons	ible for Actio	n Plan:

Strategy#	5	We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.				
Action Plan #	5					
Specific Result Statement	ult Enhance teacher collaboration between grade levels, subject areas and vertical teams to increase student achievement and professional development.					
#	Acti	Action Steps		Starting date	Ending Date	Completed Date
1		Revisit /enhance PLC time to best support teachers and student needs.				
2	pos	explore vertical team structures when ossible to ensure curriculum lignment.				
3		relop collaboration expectations and ms when meeting with teachers.				
4	cros	lore teacher mentors to expand ss curricular conversations (ie. ructional strategies, book studies.)				
5		relop and train teacher leaders for h strategy of the strategic plan.				
6	Throobs sup	s specific result will be evaluated ough staff surveys or informal ervations teachers will feel more port for their professional elopment.				

Position Responsible for Action Plan:

	We will implement research-based instruction, materials, and practices including effective professional development.			
COSTS	BENEFITS			
Tangible:	Tangible:			
<ul> <li>Cost for transportation</li> <li>Cost of admission</li> <li>Cost for PD</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Student experiences</li> <li>Clearer collaboration expectations/experiences</li> <li>Increase student achievement</li> <li>Improve school culture</li> </ul>			
Intangible:	Intangible:			
<ul> <li>Teacher time</li> <li>Stress with change if current process is adjusted</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Better understanding of the MTSS process and varying tier levels</li> <li>Teacher ownership</li> </ul>			