

Preface

This book is more than a fully revised version. It's been completely rewritten from the first page to the last. Times have changed in the past 10 years, and they're going to change again in the next 10 years. But one thing has stayed the same about this book: its vision. This book says that you can have a thriving classroom, one where students ask for homework rather than complain about it. Teachers are empowered when they are heard, appreciated, and respected. When this happens, they can affect decisions about the curriculum, their classroom, their students, and school policies. It's also a vision of partnership—whereby teachers learn and work with students, not teach at them, and teachers, students, parents, and administrators work as a team, sharing ideas, supporting each other, and enjoying the privilege (not the burden) of facilitating quality learning that empowers students.

For many, especially new teachers, that may sound like a dream. It's not. A dream is a vision without a plan. There is a plan, and you are the most important part of it. The plan is almost too simple: Start right now with yourself. Start figuring out where you are in your role as an educator, what is needed, and what you can do next to make teaching work for you and your learners. Where do you begin? With this book and yourself.

Big changes start with getting skillful at making small changes first. Build your confidence in new areas. Get comfortable with change. Then begin to network and support others in growing. What will support you as you continue to impact education? You have your hands on it! Think of *Super Teaching* as a companion, a traveler's aid, and an owner's manual for you, the educator with more than just a dream. It is for the educator with the commitment to make it happen. Step by step, one by one, we can make it happen. It is inspiring what a single person can do. Don't resign yourself to "the way things are in your classroom." Rather, step up to a thriving, high-performance classroom. If you're ready, turn the page and begin the voyage of discovery.