

## Advancing Equity for Children in Special Education



Eric, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, increased two grade levels with Shadow coaching.

The Shadow Project makes learning more accessible and engaging for children in special education so they can **achieve** their full potential. The Portland nonprofit equips classrooms with **effective tools and strategies** tailored to diverse learners.

### Disparities for Oregon Special Education Students:



- **81%** do not meet 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading benchmarks
- **21,050** are chronically absent
- **9.9%** are suspended or expelled, more than double the rate of their general education peers

Oregon Department of Education, 2016-2017

### The Shadow Project Serves:



**38 schools**

**100%** in Portland and McMinnville

**77%** are Title I



**1,618 students**

**54%** from communities of color

**25%** are English Language Learners

**100%** are Tier 3

## Reading Progress Measured 4 Ways Yields Promising Early Outcomes

In 2017, Shadow Project began coaching students who were 1 to 3 years below grade level in reading using an audio library designed for children with disabilities. Fifty percent of coached students were from communities of color.

### Building Determined Learners

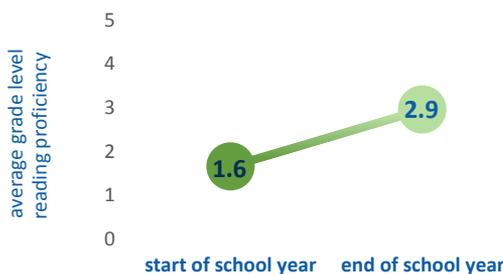


Compared to a national sample of students with disabilities, **The Shadow Project** students who received coaching were **nearly three times more likely** to read at rates that research suggests are tied to improved academic, social, and emotional outcomes among students (Learning Ally and Partners, February 2018).



### Grade Level Reading Gains

Coached Shadow Project students grades 3-5 increased by over one full grade level



Development Reading Assessment of reading pilot test group; n = 18.



### More Time Spent Reading

The Shadow Project students who received coaching **spent more time reading** than non-coached peers using the same technology.



Coached Shadow Project Students (n = 51)



Non-Coached Shadow Project Students (n = 166)

Notes. Data collected from Learning Ally. The Shadow Project student hours were recorded from December 2016–July 2017.



### Oral Reading Fluency

**88%** of Shadow Project students increased number of words read per minute

**23 words per minute** gained on average

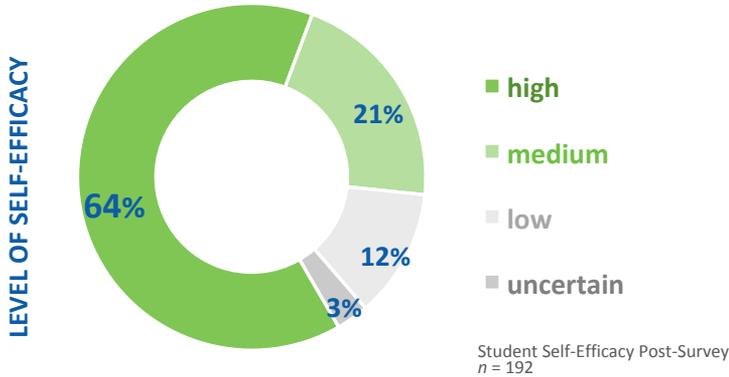
DIBELS and EasyCBM, n = 184

# Supporting Teachers in Improving Student Motivation and Persistence

**Why is self-efficacy important?** The belief in one's capability is considered key to academic achievement, motivation, and learning. Children with disabilities, however, are at risk for poor self-concept and depression (National Institutes of Health, 2012), and tend to attribute success to "luck" and failure to "being stupid" (International Dyslexia Association, 2004).



Most Shadow Project students report a high level of confidence in their ability to achieve.



## Educator Self-Efficacy

Teachers report Shadow resources improve their ability to foster success in **academic engagement**, **self-regulation**, **growth mindset**, and **perseverance**.

84%

Say Shadow engages students.

92%

Agree Shadow improves student behavior, resulting in increased teaching time.

94%

Report Shadow builds student confidence that their abilities are not fixed.

92%

Say Shadow improves students' ability to work through difficulties.

n = 46



## Student Self-Efficacy Mirrored in Teacher and Student Surveys

72% of students **strongly believe mistakes help them learn.**

94% of teachers report The Shadow Project **empowers students to learn from their mistakes.**

78% of students **describe themselves as readers.**

90% of teachers say The Shadow Project **empowers students to become independent readers.**

89% of students report they **continue trying** even when schoolwork is difficult.

90% of teachers report The Shadow Project **encourages students to try again when they fail.**



—Tamala Newsome

PPS Principal, Rosa Parks School

The Shadow Project is a vital partner. Our kids have **the tools to access learning**, and our teachers have the **training** to help them. That's how you **empower** children.

## Raising Expectations

Through the **awesomeness of The Shadow Project**, many of my students who were not completing classes passed 75% to 100% of their classes with A's, B's, and/or C's. **One student who struggled for years is now on track to be the first in her family to graduate high school.**

—Jolene Heinrich, Special Education Teacher, Patton Middle School, McMinnville