



The Shadow Project

Accelerating Achievement for Students with Disabilities

The Shadow Project exists to make school more accessible and engaging for children with disabilities so they can achieve their full potential.

Disparities for Students in Special Education:

- 21% meet 3rd grade reading benchmarks
- 27% are chronically absent
- 42% graduate with a standard diploma v.s. 82% of their peers

Oregon Department of Education 2020

The unique Portland-based nonprofit has partnered with teachers to strengthen well-being and academic success for more than 12,000 capable but underserved children whose learning barriers include dyslexia, ADHD and autism. Students in grades K-8 develop **strong academic habits** and **social-emotional skills**, supported by programs that **set high expectations** and **celebrate the inherent worth** of every child.



SELF REGULATION

73% of students improve self-management

The ability to regulate behavior is a key skill for school and life success.



READING

71% of students increase 1-2 grade levels in reading

Reading proficiency is a strong predictor of high school graduation.



TEACHING TIME

93% of teachers report increased instruction time

Educator effectiveness has a strong impact on student achievement.

The Harvard Business School Association of Oregon found that **every \$1 invested** in The Shadow Project **returns \$26 in benefits** to students and the community.

“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.**”

— Tamala Newsome, veteran principal, Portland Public Schools

Autonomy, Belonging and Healthy Growth in School

Focused on equity, Shadow Project prioritizes serving low-income schools. All programs include trauma informed, culturally-responsive training for educators, empowering children with disabilities to recognize themselves as capable, courageous learners.



Once struggling readers Esnoy and Eric are national champions in a contest for nontraditional readers

Reading Mentors

Featured at the 2019 International Dyslexia Association conference, the Reading Mentors program brings together 1) assistive reading technology and 2) trained mentors to set reading goals and celebrate progress for students who are up to 3 years behind their peers.

- **71%** of students increase at least 1 grade level, including 14% who gain 2 years in reading ability
- **90%** of special education teachers report the majority of students become more independent readers
- Mentored students spend **twice as much time** reading compared to a national sample of students using the same assistive technology

Goal Setting

Special education teachers are equipped with a structured system that sets high expectations and builds confidence by engaging students in setting and meeting academic and social goals.

- **93%** of special education teachers increase their instructional time, with 56% reporting a “significant” gain
- **89%** of students report they keep trying when school is difficult
- **85%** of students say they are confident in their ability to succeed



Mia met her goal to write a book called “Differences” and read it aloud to her class



Suspended weekly for disrupting his classroom, “Decan” became calm, focused and engaged with his peers

SuperSensory Spaces

SuperSensory Space program is a structured social-emotional skills program that empowers chronically-stressed students to master life-long skills of self-management, so they can access the core curriculum.

- **73%** of students increase self-regulation skills, a key predictor of school and life success
- **52%** of students demonstrate a stronger sense of belonging in school
- **90%** of teachers report less time spent on managing student behavior

The Shadow Project’s evaluation is led by external assessment partner Drill Consulting.
Additional data provided by Learning Ally, the world’s largest provider of assistive reading technology.