



The Shadow Project

Goal Setting Program

Turning “I Can’t” into “I Can!”

In Oregon, just 40% of students in special education graduate in four years, with a standard diploma. Discouraged by their social and academic struggles, and often ostracized by their peers for being “different,” these capable learners give up hope of success in school, quadrupling their risk of drop out. **But with the right support, these promising students can become persistent, engaged learners.**

The Shadow Project makes school more accessible and engaging for children with learning challenges so they can achieve their full potential. Since 2003, the Portland-based nonprofit has teamed with teachers to unleash the potential of nearly 12,500 children in grades K-8. *Because every child deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive.*

Motivation and Engagement

We equip special education teachers with a structured social emotional support system filled with powerful tools and techniques to build students’ internal motivation, maintain high expectations, and empower k-8 students to be confident, engaged learners. Through daily activities, kids develop persistence, autonomy, and a growth mindset.



“This program has increased my teaching time. I have fewer behavior problems because students understand the expectations for learning.”

- LaShell Holton, special education teacher

Engagement, Autonomy, & Perseverance in School

Program outcomes include:

- 89% of students say Goal Setting motivates them to keep trying, even when school is difficult.
- 74% of teachers say the program significantly enhances their ability to reach disengaged learners.
- 93% of teachers increased teaching time, due to increased student buy-in to learning goals and classroom expectations.

“Goal Setting supports students’ personal motivation and helps develop executive functioning skills as learners set and map out pathways to meeting their goals.”

—**Katherine Polizos**, Principal, Portland Public Schools

Our courageous kids are proud that local organizations believe in their potential!

Recent supporters of The Shadow Project include Portland **Trailblazers** Foundation, Portland **Timbers** Community Fund, **Nike** Community Impact Fund, **New Seasons**, **Oregon Cultural Trust**, **The Standard**, **Hampton Family Foundation of Oregon Community Foundation**, **Reser Family Foundation**, and many more.



“There’s nothing that celebrates the successes of kids with disabilities like The Shadow Project.”

—**Tara**, Shadow Project parent

What’s Included In The Program

- ◇ Educator training, with evidence-based and teacher-tested strategies
- ◇ Reproducible student goal worksheets and social-emotional skills materials, customized to meet grade & skill levels
- ◇ Digital formats available for hybrid and distance learning
- ◇ Access to free, online Shadow Store, stocked with high-quality sensory tools, multicultural books, and school supplies to recognize and celebrate student success
- ◇ Free delivery of all materials to your school or to student home
- ◇ Virtual program implementation support