

The Shadow Project

Driving equity for students with learning challenges

What is The Shadow Project?

Founded in 2003 by a parent of a student with learning challenges, The Shadow Project partners with schools to increase educational opportunities for the 1 in 5 children with learning and attention challenges. Using our programs, students develop strong academic habits, master social-emotional skills critical for academic and life success, and gain up to two years in their reading ability.



Three programs to help students succeed

Reading Mentoring

This program fills an important gap for struggling readers by bringing together 1) specially designed assistive technology, and 2) trained volunteer mentors who motivate students to set reading goals and encourage their progress. Outcomes: 71% of students gain 1 to 2 years in reading ability.

Goal Setting

Equips special education teachers with a powerful curriculum and resources that put students in the driver's seat of their own education. As students work towards ambitious goals, they build confidence, motivation, and perseverance — positive habits that will last a lifetime.

Super Sensory Movement Spaces

Build kids' skills to remain calm and focused in class through regular movement breaks. Supported by trained school staff, students identify and manage emotions, the building blocks for good mental health. Outcomes: 73% of students improve self-regulation, a key skill for academic and life success.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, more than 1,800 Oregon K-8 students with learning challenges got the support they needed to thrive in school. Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, students in The Shadow Project discovered the joy of reading, learned skills to cope with stress, and dreamed big for their futures. **Take a look.**

100%

of teachers say the Goal Setting program helped students transition back to in-person learning

86%

of teachers say Shadow Project programs helped them create a classroom that is responsive to the needs of BIPOC students

66%

of students increased their ability to persist in the face of adversity

My students faced a lot of challenges this year, coming back from a year without in-person school. The Shadow Project gave my students something to hold on to.

Rivkah Ross, Portland Public SpED Teacher

The Shadow Project helped me motivate students who had lost their love of learning due to online school during COVID-19.

Oregon SpED Teacher



"I read a little before, but I read a lot more now."

4th grader "Liana" loved to read, but struggled due to her learning challenges. Family upheaval and time spent in foster care made learning even harder. But after just two weeks of Reading Mentoring, she had logged 11 hours of reading. "Liana" was recently adopted into a family in another state, taking with her increased confidence as a reader.

49% of Reading Mentoring students read at least 20 minutes/day, a key indicator of reading growth