

Shadow Project

## **Reading Mentors**

### **Student Engagement**

Reading Mentors supports students reading below grade level in developing skills to achieve proficiency. Students are paired with trained volunteer mentors and receive access to Learning Ally, an assistive reading technology specifically designed to help neurodivergent learners advance their reading. The result: students who can engage in grade-level work, read enthusiastically, and explore their world through reading.

### **Student Belonging**

In Oregon, 4 out of 5 children with learning differences aren't reading proficiently, quadrupling their risk of dropping out. Our powerful combination of technology and positive adult encouragement allows struggling students to access content that matches their interests and comprehension, inspiring new levels of self-confidence and curiosity. Reading Mentors helps readers become leaders in their own educational journey.

# Classroom Outcomes

- 95% of teachers report increased student focus during reading.
- 78% of students show greater enthusiasm for reading.

# Mentored Student Success

Students spend twice as much time reading.

**71% of students** gain at least one reading grade level.

Some **students gain up to TWO years** in reading abilities.

**64%** demonstrate increased self-confidence as a reader.

#### **Partnerships**

The Shadow Project works to close the opportunity gap for elementary and middle school students whose learning challenges include dyslexia, ADHD, autism, sensory, and mental health concerns. We partner with 60+ schools and numerous organizations in Oregon to transform education for neurodivergent learners.

The Shadow Project has provided teachers with resources to help unleash the potential of over 17,000 K-8 students since 2003.

# Shadow Project

## **Reading Mentors**

### **School Partners Provide**

- A consistent lead contact to identify students and create schedules.
- Space for students and mentors to meet during the school day.
- **Staff time** for a 15-minute program implementation training.
- Cost share realistic for your budget.
- **De-identified** student achievement data.
- Staff completion of evaluation surveys.

The program provides a glue for them to stay in their school, to be interested and to have an outlet to share good and bad experiences in a safe place.

—Blair, Reading Mentor

### **The Shadow Project Provides**

- Mentoring for up to 25 students grades 3-5, with weekly 20-minute sessions.
- Access to 80,000-title Learning Ally audio-visual library for all students reading below grade level, available at school and home with many titles in Spanish.
- Training and implementation sessions for lead teachers and building administrators.
- **School-wide educator training** to guide integration of assistive technology into your literacy curriculum for all students.
- Program adaptability for pull-in and push-out systems.
- **Family Outreach**: in-person presentations explaining the technology and multilingual take home materials to support student learning.
- Family Reading Celebration for all students who participate in "The Great Reading Games," a national reading competition for non-traditional readers.
- **Program evaluation** to show accountability and demonstrate impact.

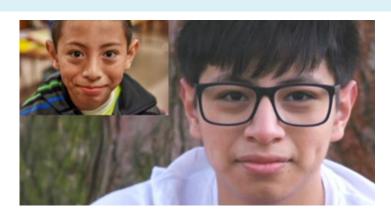
### **Shadow Project Mentors**

- Provide consistent individualized coaching and mentoring.
- Motivate students to set reading goals, celebrate perseverance and progress.
- Are volunteers, trained in trauma-informed & culturally responsive education practices.

Shadow Project

### **Reading Mentors**

Visit shadow-project.org
call 971-373-3457 or email
sharon@shadow-project.org
to learn more about our
three programs:
Goal Setting,
Reading Mentors, and
SuperSensory Spaces.



Then-fifth grade John pretended to read until he started mentoring with The Shadow Project. In 2023, John graduated from Benson High School, the first in his family to receive a diploma.