

2025-2026 Impact Summary

Turning Neuroinclusive Tools into Real Growth

With neuroinclusive tools from The Shadow Project, students who once felt they weren't good at school are becoming confident learners, leaders, and problem-solvers, all with the support of educators equipped to help them succeed.

3,318
students
served
[+ 22%]



257
educators
trained
[+127%]



18% increase
in new
schools
served



**School
Partners in
10 districts**
[+3]



Augustus' Story

"I thought I wasn't good at reading. I thought I wasn't good at math. But...I'm really good at those things. And I didn't know."

For years, Augustus believed he simply wasn't good at learning. Big, busy classrooms were hard to focus in, and he often felt like he didn't belong. **"I'm really good at math. It's just hard to show, because I'm not good at learning in a big group of kids."**

That changed when he and his teacher, Ms. Ryan, began using our Goal Setting Program together. With lots of positive feedback that centered a growth mindset, Augustus **started to see himself differently.**

Earning Shadow Bucks kept him motivated, and he looked forward to every trip to the Shadow Store. What mattered most, though, was that **he found a program that worked the way his brain did**- one where he could focus, set his own pace, and build confidence to seek out bigger challenges.

He realized that his ability to learn had been there all along- he just needed the right support to nurture it. Now a fifth grader who dreams of building robots, he can finally name how far he has come!



Goal Setting

Tools for teachers to help students build focus, flexibility, and the confidence to take on harder things.

Goal Setting gave students a consistent, encouraging way to see their own progress, while giving teachers the tools to support and celebrate it. Most importantly, **success became something they built together.**



75% of students **improved** their ability to follow instructions



72% of students **improved** their cognitive flexibility, helping them adapt to changing situations and expectations



10% increase in student program participants from last year

“Goal setting with my students helped me see what they were worried about and helped me focus my lessons to support what they felt they needed. That in itself increased student engagement.”
-Partner Educator

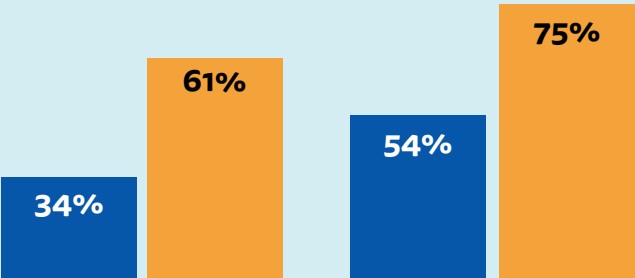
Reading Mentors

Grows reading skills through mentors and technology that unlocks literacy for kids who learn differently.

Reading Mentors helped struggling readers fall in love with reading through stories that interest them, in an accessible format, with a supportive adult by their side.

After just a few months in Reading Mentors, students started seeing themselves as *confident readers*:

● February '26 ● April '26



I feel very confident reading on my own

I like reading more than I did before mentoring



73,806 pages read



1,616 total mentor sessions held
[+8%]

“My favorite part of coming [to Reading Mentors] is that the staff is really sweet and supportive and it has made me fall in love with reading.”
-Reading Mentors Student

SuperSensory Spaces

Equips educators to guide students through structured breaks with sensory tools, where kids build skills to manage complex emotions at school and in life.

In SuperSensory Spaces, students built durable skills that helped them cope with stress, regulate their emotions, and communicate their needs, so they could fully engage in learning.



600+ hours
of sensory
support



14 total
active spaces
[+6]



71% more students accessed a SuperSensory Space this year



68% of students demonstrated stronger self-regulation skills



71% of students **improved** their ability to identify and communicate their emotions.

"It's a space where I get to ask students how they're feeling and what would help them to self-regulate. In the beginning of the year, a lot of kids can only express rudimentary feelings- 'I feel sad because I miss Mom.' But over the course of the year, they're really able to express, 'I feel really wiggly. I think I really need to be jumping on the crash pad right now!'"

-Amanda Walker, Fairview Elementary Counselor



"The need for
The Shadow Project is more
important than ever. This is the
biggest gift that you can give
districts and schools...a chance
for teacher and staff and even
principal learning."

- Jen Ayers
Reynolds School District
Administrator

Supporting Educators Supports Students

"The needs are just growing, and the resources are dying"
-Jen Ayers, Reynolds School District Administrator

This sentiment echoed across our partner schools this year, as educators faced more budget cuts and shrinking resources, while the needs in their classrooms continued to grow.

To address some of these gaps, we provided tailored training to **127% more** educators, **doubled** our number of active SuperSensory Spaces, and **expanded training** on Learning Ally- resulting in **50% more students** using this assistive reading technology in Centennial School District.

The impacts of this increased support were quickly felt: **77%** of schools with a newly launched SuperSensory Space reported **decreases in learning-disrupting behaviors** in their first year. **86%** of our Goal Setting Program teachers said it helped them feel **confident and prepared to better support students** with learning differences.

Each equipped educator reaches a whole classroom of kids, making school more accessible not only for students with learning challenges, but for every child in the room. **The best investment in a struggling student is often the supportive adult standing beside them.**

Looking Ahead

A few of The Shadow Project's Goals for 2026-2027 include:



Serve 3,850 students across 13 local school districts



Launch 6-8 new SuperSensory Spaces, including in Molalla River School District, our first *rural* partnership since 2018!



Grow the number of students served by our Goal Setting Program another **5-10%**



Distribute \$160,000+ worth of sensory tools, books, school supplies, and assistive reading technology



Train 260 educators in neuroinclusive practices

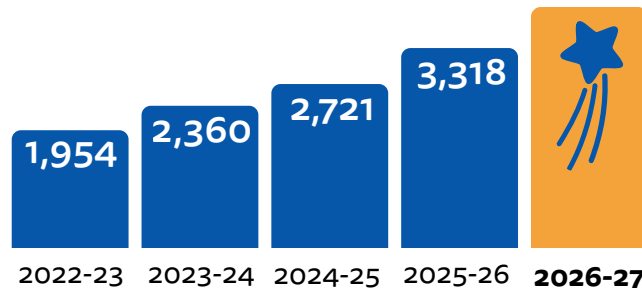


Broaden Goal Setting outreach so **more students** outside of special education have access to **neuroinclusive support**



Expand assistive reading technology implementation & educator training

Reach EVEN MORE students



Read our full

2025-2029

Strategic Plan!



Thank you for your support!



Mission

Our mission is to make school more accessible and engaging for children with disabilities, so they can achieve their full potential.

Vision

We envision an education system that normalizes and celebrates learning differences, and supports every student to thrive in school.

The **Shadow Project**

CHANGING LIVES FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING CHALLENGES