



2023 Grantmaking & Impact Report

overdeck.org

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Progress toward academic recovery stalled in SY 2022-23 with a quarter of students chronically absent and the average student needing over four extra months of school to catch up in reading and math.

The status quo won't be enough to accelerate student engagement or learning.

That's why we're here.

Mission



We seek to open doors for every child in the U.S. by measurably enhancing education both inside and outside the classroom.

Letter from Our Vice President



Friends and colleagues,

As I reflect on the past year, I'm filled with a sense of awe and pride both for the ingenuity and perseverance we saw in our grantee partners and our team's continued commitment to supporting nonprofit organizations on their journeys of innovation, evidence, and growth.



Anu Malipatil

Vice President, Education

Anu Malipatil is the Foundation's founding team member, bringing with her more than 20 years of K-12 education and nonprofit sector experience.

This past year marked my tenth anniversary leading Overdeck Family Foundation. From day one, we've been guided by a shared mission—to open doors for every child in the U.S. by measurably enhancing education both inside and outside the classroom. We started by focusing on STEM opportunities, and in the years since, have expanded our scope to include additional areas across the education sector, from birth to ninth grade. I can hardly believe what we've accomplished in one decade as I've watched our grantmaking efforts help foster cross-sector collaboration, amplify educational opportunities, and drive improvement in academic and social-emotional outcomes for children across the country.



Courtesy of Transcend

So, it's with deep humility that I welcome you to our third annual Grantmaking & Impact Report, dedicated to highlighting what our grantmaking accomplished in the past year and uplifting the successes of the organizations we fund. As you explore the report, you'll find insights into our impact and grantmaking data, stories from beneficiaries, and Bright Spots that detail how nonprofit leaders unlocked innovation, built evidence, and grew their organizations this past year.

The successes of our grantee partners are significant, and as I'll detail later, there are invaluable lessons to be learned from their accomplishments, both for our

team and the field at large. But as I look across the education landscape, it's clear there's more work to be done than what we can possibly do alone. That's why, aligned to our core value of "learn better, together," you'll see a strong thread of collaboration in this letter, one that weaves itself through both our internal and external efforts.

There's much to say about the education sector right now, but a few things stand out.

The Current State

First, too many children aren't regularly coming to school, and we know that absent children cannot learn. Data show that nearly **30 percent of students** were chronically absent during SY 2021-22, meaning they missed 10 percent or more of the year. Across our team, we've realized that it does not matter how effective an intervention is at improving outcomes if a child is not there to receive it.

Second, academic progress inside the classroom has stalled. **2022 PISA** results reveal that, while science and reading scores in the U.S. held steady since 2018, students experienced a 13-point decline in math. Meanwhile, **national achievement data** have shown a failure to return to pre-pandemic performance, which was already far too low, and public schools reported that, on average, **half of their students** started SY 2022-23 behind grade level.

Third, addressing academic problems is made more difficult in the face of ongoing **workforce challenges**. Teacher retention continues to be complicated, especially for specialized roles, and staffing for early childhood, afterschool, and summer programs—which are crucial for setting children up for success—is inconsistent and fragile.

The Bright Side

None of these challenges can be tackled in isolation. Some of our biggest successes in 2023 resulted from collaboration between teams, philanthropies, and sectors.

Despite it not fitting neatly into our strategy areas, engaging families in their children's education became a deeper focus for our team this year, especially in light of growing absenteeism and slowing academic progress. We partnered with the U.S. Department of Education and Carnegie Corporation of New York to launch a virtual [learning series](#) focused on uplifting evidence-based family engagement strategies that support student success, including attendance, starting in early childhood. More than 2,800 education leaders and practitioners joined these conversations throughout the six-month series, including leaders from some of the nation's largest districts. We also worked with [Learning Heroes](#) to create a [localized public awareness campaign](#), which aimed to increase caregiver understanding of how their child is doing in school and drive them to take action in support of their child's academic progress. Early results are promising, and validate our hypothesis that building shared awareness of an issue can drive actionable change.

Declining math scores, as mentioned above, sparked renewed energy around the importance of STEM learning, both in and out of school, which we have long-prioritized as important. For example, [Afterschool Alliance](#)'s STEM policy cohort, which comprises 13 states, generated \$143 million in new funding for afterschool and summer programs that support STEM learning, increasing access to in-demand programs for families and children across the country. And grantee organizations that focus on increasing students' STEM engagement and identity through rigorous and joyful learning, including DiscoverE's [Future City](#), [FIRST](#)[®], and [Learn Fresh](#), grew year over year by 94, 34, and 24 percent respectively, demonstrating increased demand for these programs. One of the key predictors of growth was partnership between in- and out-of-school learning, and we're optimistic that there will be increased opportunities to strengthen these connections and increase the joy of STEM learning in the years ahead.



Core to accelerating students' academic progress and supporting their social-emotional needs is high-impact tutoring, which has grown its evidence base and scalability potential thanks to work by the [National Student Support Accelerator](#) and [Accelerate's](#) States Leading Recovery program. As one of the earliest funders of [Saga Education](#), a leading provider of high-impact tutoring, we continue to believe that this type of intervention is one of the most impactful ways to accelerate student learning. But given the aforementioned workforce challenges and the budget constraints of most districts, scaling traditional high-impact tutoring models has historically been elusive. Over the past several years, many of our grantees, including Saga, have [incorporated technology into their programs](#), driving down the cost of tutoring without sacrificing impact. Most recently, a randomized controlled trial of grantee [OnYourMark's](#) virtual early literacy tutoring program showed positive impacts on kindergarteners' knowledge of letter sounds and first graders' decoding skills. The partnering of technology with an intervention long-supported by evidence is promising and I'm hopeful that this evolution will allow better and faster academic recovery for all students who need it.

We've long opined on the lack of [evidence-based decision-making](#) at the school and district level. Our hypothesis has been that low-quality materials and associated professional development not only hurt students, but prevent educators from being as effective as they could be, leading to less professional satisfaction and higher turnover. In 2023, after years of advocacy and public awareness by field leaders, we began to see the tide turn, with more districts, cities, and states [embracing science of reading-based literacy curricula](#) that show evidence of improving student outcomes and the educator experience. In the years ahead, grantees [Teaching Lab](#) and [Leading Educators](#) will provide curriculum-aligned professional learning to over 1,400 teachers reaching 58,000 students as part of an initiative to bring the science of reading to all public school students in New York City. And, after over 10 years of operation, our grantee [EdReports](#), which supports districts and states in selecting high-quality instructional materials, reached 3.2 million unique website visitors in the past year, a reported 45 percent year-over-year increase, demonstrating increased demand for its resources.

Our Impact in 2023

Collaboration between our team, grantees, and the sector was critical to our success in 2023. Throughout the year, we disbursed \$53.5 million to almost 100 grantee partners, collectively reaching over 66 million children nationwide. Key achievements of this funding included:

- 15 early stage organizations funded and 26 prototypes developed, continuing to drive the sector in innovation for both delivery channels and programmatic design;
- 36 validation and research studies completed;
- Two grantees increased Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) tiers, with 11 meeting Tier 1 and Tier 2 evidence standards;
- 31 grantees increased reach and 22 increased earned revenue year-over-year, often by prioritizing the implementation of technology to lower costs, improve scalability, and maintain impact;
- Grantees strengthened 31 organizational skills with capacity building provided by the Foundation, which included support for communications, impact evaluation, financial planning, leadership development, and strategic growth; and
- Over \$67 million in public and private funding attracted by grantees with support from the Foundation.

This year, we once again partnered with the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) to gather anonymous insights in a Grantee Perception Report, which helped us understand where our grantees think we are strong, and where we need to improve. [On our blog](#), we detail how we did against previous commitments, with several takeaways that are guiding 2024 planning. Notably, grantees recognized our impact in the field and our efforts to generate and disseminate knowledge, rating us in the 70th and 86th percentile, respectively. We also received high scores for our impact on grantee organizations, especially from Direct Impact grantees. Lastly, we saw improvements in our grant reporting process ratings, and received our highest-ever rating for communicating our goals and strategies.

Opportunities for 2024

The Foundation had an incredibly strong year, but we still missed some of the ambitious goals that we set for ourselves.

1. Deepening trust, support, and impact with grantees. Our 2023 CEP results, while overall positive, showed us that more work is needed to improve our grantee relationships, particularly in the area of trust. Grantees reported feeling significantly more pressure to alter their goals to receive funding from the Foundation and we received lower-than-typical ratings about comfort approaching the Foundation should a problem arise. Trusting relationships with grantee partners are a key component to impact, so this is something we will directly seek to address by increasing the amount of time our team spends with grantees.



2. Funding new Direct Impact organizations. In 2023, we were only able to fund six new Direct Impact organizations, against a more ambitious goal. Funding new organizations is a critical element of our venture-inspired funding model, which is designed to prioritize funding at junctures where the Foundation can be most impactful and catalytic. It's also a key component of driving innovation in the sector. For 2024, we're putting several tactics into place to enhance how we find and fund new organizations. For example, we're redesigning our pipeline process, rethinking how we fund pilot grants, and developing funding strategies with pipelines in mind, allowing us to operate at the nexus of what the sector needs and what's available.

3. Growing our research capabilities. Last year, we launched one research study and no validations, against a goal of five and three, respectively. Given that our Foundation has a unique proposition of unlocking evidence for nonprofits that hope to scale as a way to promote evidence-based decision-making, our failure to meet our aspirations has implications for both the nonprofits we fund and the sector at large. We take this seriously and are excited to meet our ambitions in 2024 through a newly staffed research arm at the Foundation, which will prioritize working with grantees who would benefit from validations, as well as commissioning research that fills important knowledge gaps in the sector.

Our Foundation has important work ahead of us to address these key areas and uphold our commitments to our grantees, ourselves, and the sector. I believe that leveraging both our direct impact and ecosystem grantmaking in addition to continued and strengthened collaboration across our team and stakeholders will be critical to catalyzing our impact for the long term. I look forward to sharing what we learn along the way.

As always, but especially now, as I reflect on all the Foundation has accomplished in the past year and decade, I want to thank my team for always showing up for each other and our grantees, for being unafraid to ask the tough questions, and for bringing us closer to fulfilling our goal of providing all children the opportunity to unlock their potential. Thank you also to our grantees who bring this work to life and inspire us with their limitless efforts to improve the educational experience for children across the country. And thank you to the Foundation's leadership for their unwavering belief in our mission and support of this work.

Anu Malipatil

Sincerely,
Anu Malipatil

“ ”



 COMMONLIT

I think that CommonLit has impacted my students a great deal.

Over 91 percent of my students passed the Florida English Language Arts state test last year, well above the statewide average of 55 percent. One of my students even said that CommonLit was more challenging than the state test! Since we did CommonLit on a daily basis, it really prepared them for a difficult state exam.

Jeffrey Allagood

Teacher, Fort Lauderdale, FL

2023

By the
Numbers

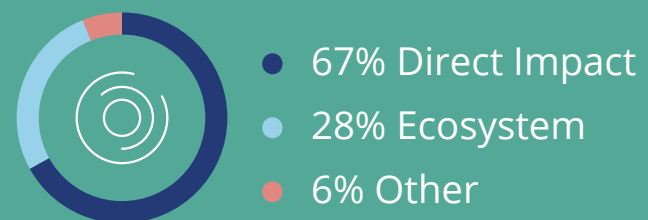
2023 total disbursement \$53.5 million

Grant funding by type

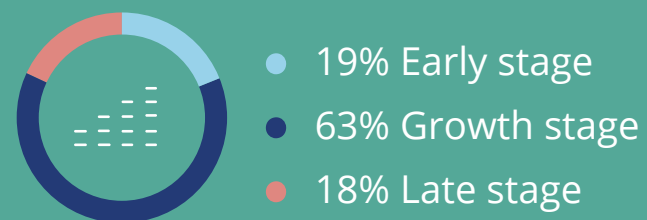


- ✓ 93 grantees supported
- ✓ 22 new grants
- ✓ 84% of grants primarily benefit historically disadvantaged groups

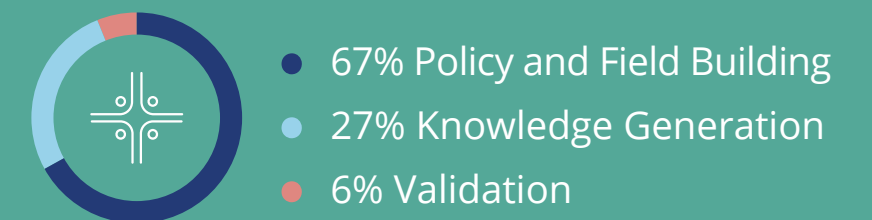
Grant funding by lever



Organizational stage



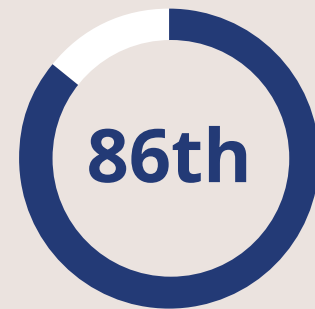
Ecosystem grants by type



BY THE NUMBERS
Grantmaking
Effectiveness

These findings reflect the results of a survey of Overdeck Family Foundation grantees conducted by the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) in May and June 2023. All percentiles are benchmarked against a CEP dataset of more than 50,000 grantee responses from over 300 funders.

Impact

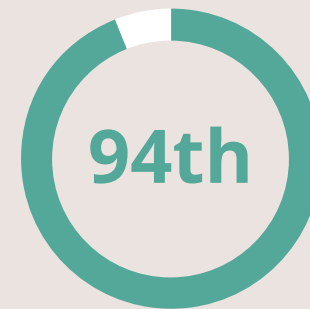


percentile for advancing state of knowledge in the field

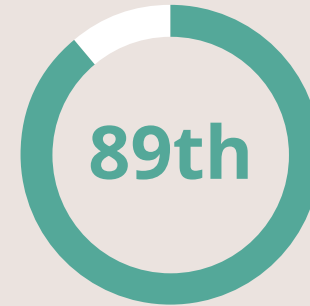


percentile for affecting public policy in the field

Relationships

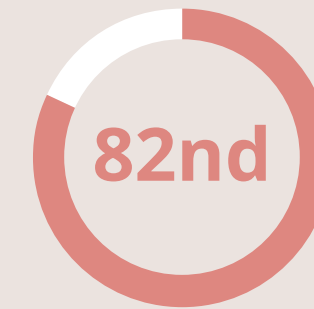


percentile for understanding grantees' fields

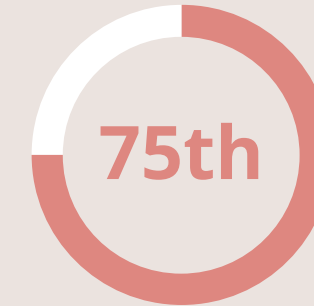


percentile for impacting Direct Impact organizations

Process



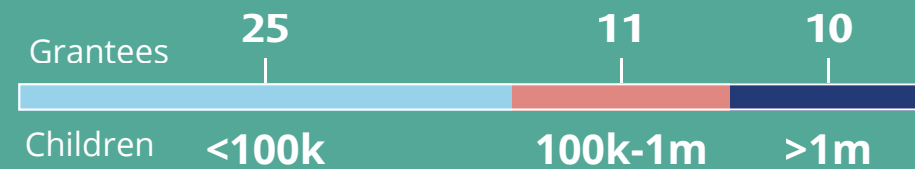
percentile for helpfulness of grant reporting process



percentile for helpfulness of selection process

Growth

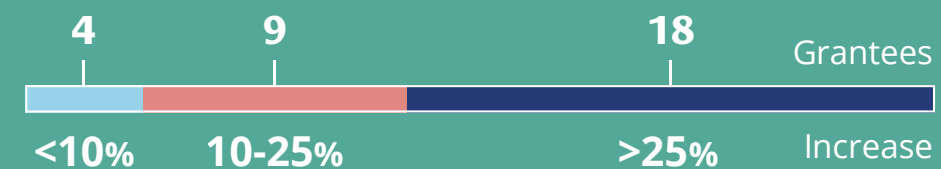
66 million children reached



22 grantees increased earned revenue



31 grantees increased reach



Supported grantees to strengthen 31 capacities and attract >\$67.2m in public and private funding

Innovation

26 prototypes generated

15 early stage organizations funded

Evidence

- ✓ 36 validation and research studies completed
- ✓ 2 grantees increased ESSA tier
- ✓ 11 grantees meet top two ESSA tier standards

Tier 2

2

Tier 1

9

“ ”



 EdNavigator

EdNavigator is so helpful for getting kids into school and getting Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Often I start the process and give the family a letter, then ask them to take it from there, and families are intimidated or get incorrect information from the school districts. EdNavigator makes the process so much more successful.

Pediatrician

Boston, MA

2023

Impact Overview



66 million
children with opportunity for accelerated academic and/or social-emotional achievement

500,000
educators with opportunity for improved teaching practices

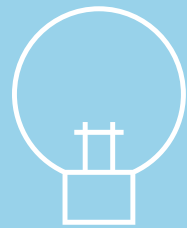
3.9 million
families with opportunity for improved parenting practices



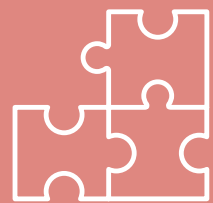
Early Impact



Exceptional Educators



Innovative Schools



Inspired Minds



New Jersey



Early Impact

Creating strong foundations for early learning.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

Portfolios: Early Impact



13,000 media stories on chronic absenteeism



33-47% reduced risk of preterm birth



96% of families surveyed reported that they were able to resolve their education-related challenge with EdNavigator's help



1.6-2.8 months of accelerated literacy growth on a report card index for students whose families do not share a home language with their child's teacher



8 months of additional learning in predictive early literacy skills for children participating in SEEDS programs



10 states introduced legislation and three states implemented executive action to improve early childhood programs with technical assistance from The Hunt Institute



400 early childhood and parenting measures scored and added to the IMPACT Measures Tool



99,000 parents and parent-facing professionals reached through evidence-based parenting practices focused on supporting child learning and development



2X more likely after participating in LENA Grow that children get back on track when experiencing language or social-emotional delay



50% reduction in language delays for children at 21 months old



50% lower likelihood of developing mental health problems by second grade and 24% lower risk of reading below grade level for children in ParentCorps-enhanced Pre-K, relative to children in traditional Pre-K



22% lower odds of chronic absenteeism for students attending a school that systematically implemented home visits, compared to those that did not



5 communities co-creating plans with parents and pediatricians to integrate best practices for social-emotional development and early relational health into pediatric care



\$12 million+ in funding to "high-impact potential" early childhood social ventures connected by Promise Venture Studio over the last 12 months



61% of participants reading at or above grade level in first grade, compared to 43% of comparison group students



27% increased likelihood that caregivers read or look at books with their child every day after participating in Reach Out and Read



54,000+ children across NYC reached by FUEL grantees from July 2022 through June 2023



5-month reading gain over 5-10 weeks for students in Springboard Collaborative programs



15% decrease in student absenteeism for district schools using TalkingPoints, versus those not using TalkingPoints



47% more students scoring below grade level in literacy at the beginning of kindergarten meet end-of-year grade-level expectations in Tools of the Mind classrooms, compared to matched classrooms



91% of participants arrive to school kindergarten-ready



Exceptional Educators

Increasing the retention of expert educators in K-9.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

Portfolios: Exceptional Educators



1.5 additional months
of reading growth in 1 year for students in classrooms staffed by team-based teachers



5.3% rise
in ELA proficiency in New York City's District 19 after implementing CenterPoint's standards-aligned professional learning



54 active members,
35 of which are currently superintendents and/or state chiefs, serving 5.5 million students and 346,000 teachers in 10,000 schools



~59,000 students
reached by City Teaching Alliance teaching residents, participant-teachers, alumni teachers, and school-based leaders in SY 2022-23



114 of the largest 200 districts
use EdReports reviews, representing more than 9.2 million students



4 recommendations
to the U.S. Department of Education to bolster the adoption and scale of strategic staffing



6 million students
across 120 districts have benefited from ERS's work on improving the teaching profession



43 actions
by federal policymakers that advance equitable Pre-K-12 policy goals



45 partner schools
in Texas saw a 13-percentage-point growth in proficiency from 2021 to 2022, compared to 9-percentage-point growth seen statewide with non-partner schools



80% of schools
supported by Leading Educators in Charleston, SC outperformed 2019 student learning outcomes in reading and math



87% of participants
made measurable progress in improving student achievement and other outcomes



0.5 years
of additional ELA and math learning gain per year for students in Opportunity Culture classrooms



225 schools
using real-time data to establish classroom conditions that accelerate learning and double the likelihood of students earning A's and B's



2,200+ current and aspiring teachers
and 2,300+ teacher leaders trained nationwide in SY 2023-24



64 schools
with 393 classrooms representing 10,000 students participating in a study on the impact of curriculum-based professional learning



~50,000 visitors
have viewed the Rivet Professional Learning Partner Guide since its launch



80%+ of substitute teachers
reported increased confidence in facilitating instruction and managing classroom culture and routines after taking SubSchool courses



50% of grade 3-8 students
in Chicago Public Schools whose teachers were coached by Teaching Lab demonstrated proficiency on grade-level math and ELA tasks



27 policy wins
to support a more a dynamic, rewarding, collaborative, sustainable, and diverse teaching profession



Innovative Schools

Supporting student-centered
learning environments.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

Portfolios: Innovative Schools

 Accelerate

33 tutoring providers

and 5 states received over \$10 million to make high-impact tutoring sustainable and cost-effective for 250,000+ students

THE *Canopy*

300+ learning environments

have received support and recognition in adopting innovative models

 COMMONLIT

2X learning gains

in reading achievement delivered through CommonLit's digital platform

 EdTech Evidence EXCHANGE

1,500+ surveys

completed by educators across 264 schools to identify the context in which they implement edtech tools

FutureEd
Independent Analysis, Innovative Ideas

15 high-quality tutoring systems

interviewed to determine best practices for tutoring

 Khan Academy

103,000+ very active learners

(spending 30+ minutes per week) yearly on Khan Academy through school partnerships

 NATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT ACCELERATOR
equalizing access to quality tutoring

3,350 participants

have learned about best practices for high-impact tutoring through webinars and conferences

 ON YOUR MARK

61% of participating K-2 students

made average, above-average, or well-above-average growth in foundational literacy skills

 PBLworks
BUCK INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION

27,000+ educators

from across the world engaged in PBLWorks professional learning in 2022

 Quill

71% gain

in writing skills over the course of 1 year for students who complete Quill's intervention

 ROBIN HOOD LEARNING TECHNOLOGY FUND
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OVERDECK FAMILY FOUNDATION AND SIEGEL FAMILY ENDOWMENT

76,000 high-poverty NYC students

learned to read using blended literacy models seeded by Robin Hood

 saga
EDUCATION

1 year

of additional math learning for students participating in Saga tutoring, which reaches 12,700 students in 16 states through in-person and tech-enabled tutoring

 ST Math

29.2- to 44.7-point advantage

in average spring 2022 Texas STAAR math scale score for students using ST Math, compared to matched controls

 throughline
LEARNING

84% of students

reported an increase in engagement, and 55% an increase in sense of belonging, after their Community Educator received Throughline Learning coaching

 Transcend
BUILDING BEYOND THE LIMITS OF SCHOOL DESIGN

106 partner schools

implemented blended learning practices with support from Transcend

 UPchieve

21,000+ hours

of free tutoring and college counseling provided to low-income students from January to October 2023

 ZEARN

2X learning gains

in math achieved by students who consistently use Zearn, compared to matched students not using Zearn



Inspired Minds

Inspiring young minds
through out-of-school STEM
opportunities.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

Portfolios: Inspired Minds



\$143 million

in new funding for afterschool and summer programs that support STEM learning in 9 states that were part of the STEM policy cohort



92% of students

report improved math confidence and 83% report improved math understanding



1.5X increased likelihood

of majoring in STEM for students who participated in BEAM, versus the comparison group



115,000 youth

served through 185 out-of-school time partners using Arly, BellXcel's youth development platform



8,900+ underserved students

in SY 2022-23 completed 5 or more lessons or daily challenges



79% of students

report increased interest in learning more about STEM after completing *Expedition Mars*, a Challenger experience



8% increase

in the number of kids who said they liked science after watching episodes of "Cyberchase"



80% of students

increased their understanding of the engineering design process



96% of families and educators

report that EIE activities supported families' understanding of computer science



2.2X greater likelihood

that participants report interest in STEM 9 years after participating in a FIRST program, versus comparison group



19% YoY growth

in number of under-represented youth attending more than 15 hours of quality, hands-on STEM activities through Imagine Science partners



27% improvement

in math fluency for students participating in NBA Math Hoops



70% growth

in student enrollment across all MESA states in SY 2022-23



29,688 subscribers

to newsletter promoting the power of family math activities in achieving equity and academic success within the context of school, family, and community engagement



82% of parents

reported observing their child had stronger interest in STEM fields after participating in Camp Invention



18,600 students

attended field trips online, in person, and in school from January to September 2023



270,000+ visitors

to DiscoverSummer.org, an online tool to identify summer programs, over 20% of which offer STEM learning opportunities



11% increase

in caregivers' knowledge and awareness of foundational math skills and 10% increase in caregivers' confidence to support their child's learning of early math skills after participating in PBS SoCal's Family Math programming



32% of students

assigned Family Playlists exceeded or met grade-level math assessment benchmarks, compared to 4% of students before the intervention



990+ school leaders

and 220+ district leaders surveyed to understand why and how principals and district leaders partner with STEM afterschool providers



82% of students

who did a science project using Science Buddies agree that their project helped them understand how scientists use the scientific method to answer a question



6 national presentations

for educators highlighting key principles and practices of innovative math programs that spark curiosity and joy in mathematics



New Jersey

Helping children in New Jersey unlock their potential.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

Portfolios: New Jersey

DREW

60 students

participated in a tuition-free, summer residential program for high-achieving high school juniors who have an interest in STEM



59 students

received scholarships to participate in virtual and in-person Center for Talented Youth programs, with an average award of \$5,085 per student



78,405 students and educators

reached through STEM education programs in FY 2023



30 teachers

developed deeper mathematical thinking and refined pedagogical approaches, bringing newfound expertise to more than 3,000 students in 22 districts across New Jersey



90,000+ New Jersey students

reached through hands-on STEM learning experiences, high-quality math and science instruction, and STEM career awareness programs through NJ STEM Month and 7 regional STEM Learning Ecosystems



24- and 17-percentage-point

improvement in students performing on grade level in math and literacy, respectively, during SY 2022-23



Students 2 Science

42,000 students

reached through Students 2 Science's virtual and in-person STEM lab programs



2 student teachers

received annual financial support to pursue their teaching certifications and offer quality STEM instruction to 100+ students in their districts



United Way
of Northern New Jersey

915,109 hours

of quality care provided to children in New Jersey by United in Care hubs and home-based family care providers



Wildflower Schools

3 preschools and 1 elementary school

in New Jersey incorporating Montessori practices to increase the quality of early childhood education

“ ”



MOxMATH
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS

Math tends to be difficult for a lot of children, but the way MoMath presented math to my son has helped him stay on top of his classes, way beyond the other kids in his class.

I remember an exam that he had to take. He said to me, ‘You would not believe what was on that test—I learned it at MoMath!’ When my son comes out of MoMath Transformations Summer Camp, he feels like he can conquer the world and do anything. He loves learning and being challenged!

Fabienne Keller

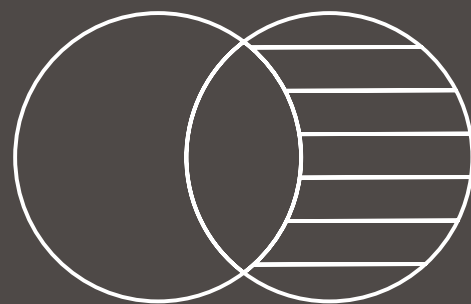
Parent, New York, NY

2023

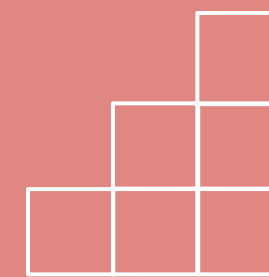
—
Bright Spots



Unlocking Innovation



Unlocking Evidence



Unlocking Growth



Unlocking Innovation

Funding for organizations to develop and launch a new approach, intervention, or model that addresses an unmet need.

26 prototypes generated

15 early stage organizations funded





The Problem

Early childhood environmental education can increase learning in math and science, yet an analysis of children’s educational and nature-themed TV episodes showed that less than five percent covered environmental themes.

The Innovation

“Cyberchase” is an Emmy Award-winning public media series produced by WNET that engages children ages five to eight in math and environmental science. The animated series features the adventures of a diverse trio of kids who use their “math power” to tackle environmental issues and save the day. Its unique dual focus taps into children’s love of nature and concern for the planet, while showcasing math as a problem-solving tool. Today, “Cyberchase” is the only national media project combining math and environmental education, and is the recipient of two Environmental Media Awards. The series’ last season had 25 million views within a year of release.

External evaluations of “Cyberchase” used pre- and post-assessments to understand the impact of the episodes. Results suggest that children who watched “Cyberchase” improved their math and environmental knowledge and their attitudes and behaviors related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and caring for the environment.

WNET has launched several new initiatives to increase access to high-quality STEM media for families. Mobile Adventures in STEM, a free, national bilingual family texting program, sends families who sign up weekly text messages in English or Spanish with links to “Cyberchase” media and related hands-on STEM activities. WNET has secured support from the National Science Foundation to evaluate the project, including research into the needs and interests of low-income and Latino parents regarding STEM learning and media. Additionally, “Cyberchase” launched a YouTube channel in the fall, which aims to capitalize on new viewing patterns for families and children, with a target of three million views within one year of launch.





Our Catalytic Role

Overdeck Family Foundation’s funding for “Cyberchase” has supported new media and community outreach, and expanded digital distribution channels for video content. Capacity-building support from the Center for Creative Leadership and GlassFrog has provided space for the team to refine its theory of change, build evidence of impact, and strengthen leadership skills.



Overdeck Family Foundation’s innovative support has enabled ‘Cyberchase’ to enhance its content and reach. Researching the impact of our storytelling and innovating with new distribution helps ‘Cyberchase’ reach even more children and families with playful STEM learning.

Sandra Sheppard

Executive Producer and Director, Kids Media and Education

Sandra Sheppard is an Emmy Award-winning producer and media executive with over 20 years of public television experience. She oversees content development and production of children’s broadcast and digital initiatives at The WNET Group. Sandra also serves as the executive producer of “Cyberchase,” overseeing production, online and mobile content, educational outreach, and research.



“Cyberchase”

Portfolio	Inspired Minds
Our Funding to Date	\$600,000 since 2020
Founded	2002
HQ	New York, NY
Website	pbskids.org/cyberchase



The Problem

Math proficiency in the U.S. dropped significantly between 2019 and 2022, with most states seeing a decline. The variance in students' math abilities within the same grade poses challenges for teachers in tailoring instruction and assessment, particularly when 50 percent of a teacher's time is spent on non-teaching tasks.

The Innovation

Khan Academy offers free, high-quality, standards-aligned learning resources that cover preschool through early college across a range of academic subjects, including math, science, history, and more. Its resources are used by approximately 18 million people per month.

In 2022, the organization launched Khan Labs, a new space dedicated to testing innovative learning technology such as Khanmigo, an AI-powered tutor fueled by ChatGPT. Officially launched in March 2023, Khanmigo is designed to improve learning and teaching: for teachers, it serves as an AI assistant that supports lesson planning and student feedback; for students, it acts as a one-on-one tutor, guiding them through materials and exercises. Today, more than 55,000 students and 3,000 teachers in the U.S. use Khanmigo. As this AI tool reaches more classrooms and students, Khan Academy is dedicated to monitoring user engagement and academic progress to gain a deeper understanding of Khanmigo's impact on student learning and the potential of AI-powered tutoring.

For over a decade, Khan Academy has been a leader in leveraging technological innovations to increase access to learning opportunities for students around the world. With Khanmigo, the organization is at the forefront of integrating generative AI into education and testing the potential of this technology to provide one-on-one support to accelerate student learning.





Our Catalytic Role

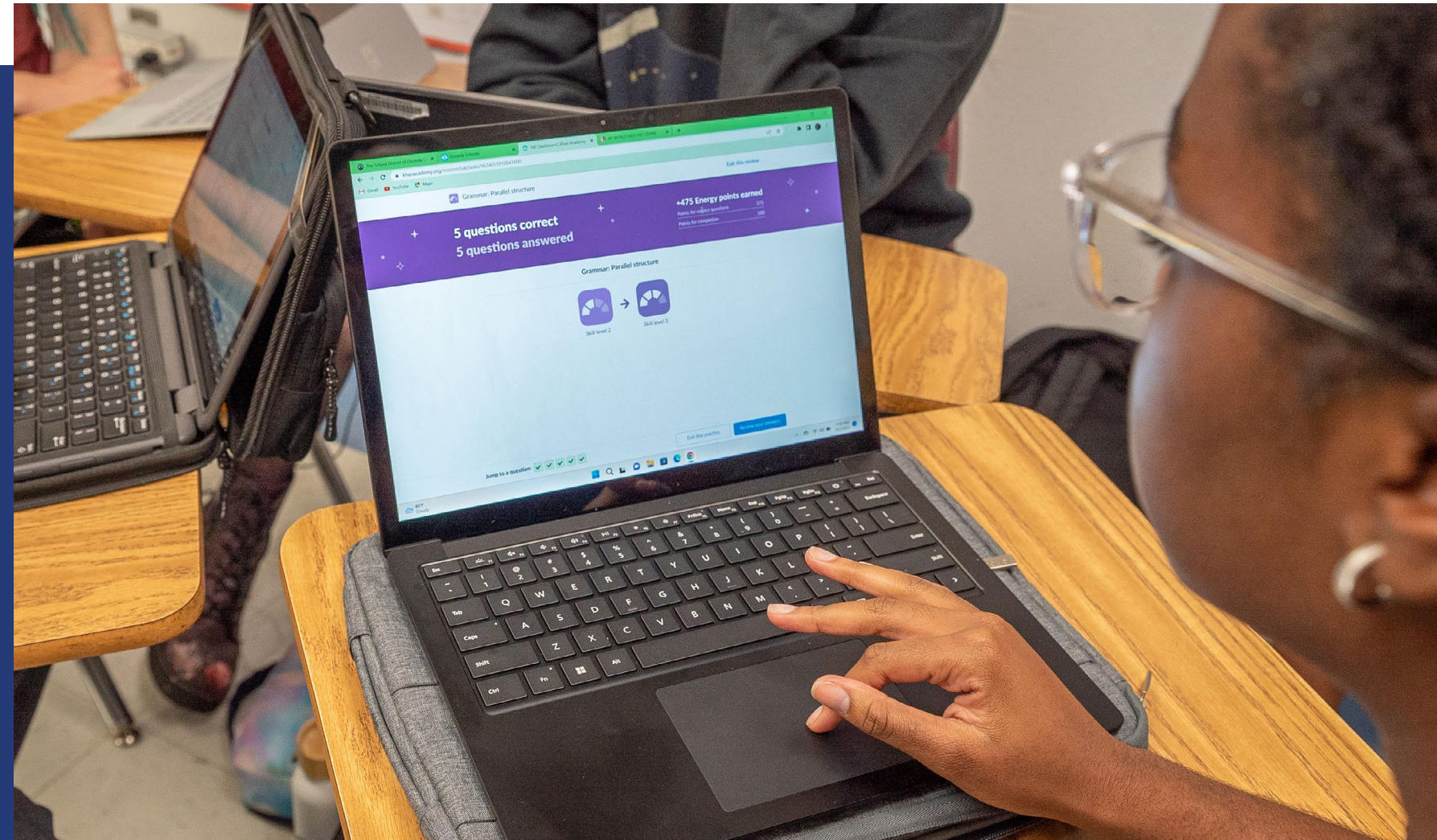
Overdeck Family Foundation has provided general operating support to Khan Academy since 2013, which has assisted the organization in continuing to innovate and develop its technology-driven products, including Khanmigo. With its most recent grant from the Foundation, Khan Academy will aim to increase the capacity of its growth and implementation teams, as well as generate evidence of Khanmigo’s efficacy.



As one of our first supporters, Overdeck Family Foundation has been key in Khan Academy becoming what it is today. As we enter the next phase of our work with AI-powered learning, we’re excited to see what more we can do together for students and teachers across the country.

Sal Khan
Founder and CEO

Sal Khan is the Founder and CEO of Khan Academy. He is also the founder of Schoolhouse.world, Khan Lab School, and Khan World School, all nonprofits focused on making personalized mastery education accessible. Sal’s interest in education began while he was an undergraduate at MIT where he developed math software for children with ADHD and tutored fourth and seventh grade public school students in Boston, MA.



Khan Academy

Portfolio Innovative Schools

Our Funding to Date \$10,505,300 since 2013

Founded 2008

HQ Mountain View, CA

Website khanacademy.org



The Problem

When done well, project-based science experiences, like science fairs, can lead to deeper understanding of science and engineering practices and increased identity and interest in science. However, many teachers and parents lack the support or resources to design meaningful science fair experiences for students.

The Innovation

Science fairs are a seminal academic experience for an estimated 10 million U.S. students a year, but they can often be low-quality. In an effort to improve the science fair experience, [Science Buddies](#) offers educators and students in kindergarten through 12th grade access to an online database with over 1,200 high-quality science fair project ideas; a “selection wizard” to help students find projects in which they’d be most interested; an “Ask An Expert” forum where both teachers and students can receive expert support with projects; and resources for teachers, including lesson plans, pacing calendars, and planning documents. Over the past year, the organization reached over eight million students.

Teacher support is a critical component of a successful science fair. In January 2023, Science Buddies launched its [Google Classroom Science Project Pathway](#), designed to make it easier for teachers to support students as they concept, develop, and present their projects. Through this optional Google Classroom platform, teachers can select and organize science project



assignments; plan a project timeline and set due dates; and cue usage of Science Buddies resources like worksheets, articles, and online tools. The Google Classroom platform improves the planning and tracking workload for teachers, while also embedding data collection mechanisms that allow Science Buddies to better understand user experiences and impact.

Science Buddies’ initial internal findings on use of the Google Classroom Science Project Pathway show that 82 percent of student users understand how scientists use the scientific method to answer a question, 65 percent developed new science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) knowledge compared to a typical science class, and 67 percent felt confident in using the scientific method to answer questions outside of science class.



Our Catalytic Role

Science Buddies capitalized on a one-year pilot grant with Overdeck Family Foundation to strengthen its revised theory of change and build data infrastructure to test it. The organization also partnered with GlassFrog to develop a rigorous measurement and evaluation framework, which was embedded into the Google Classroom Science Project Pathway.



Thanks to Overdeck Family Foundation's funding and strategic support, Science Buddies was able to directly measure the impact of our resources on STEM learning and interest for thousands of students, helping us make adjustments to improve the student and educator experience.

Tina Lanese
President

Tina Lanese is the President of Science Buddies. She has more than 25 years of experience in the education space, where she has helped develop educational products that make learning fun for students of all ages. She is a founding member of the Science Buddies team and has been instrumental in the development of key programs and resources that reach millions of students. In her previous senior-level positions with Broderbund Software, Mattel, and LEGO®, Tina developed innovative products that utilized technology to promote learning through play-based activities. Her products not only led their categories in sales, but also won praise among educators and reviewers.



Science Buddies

Portfolio	Inspired Minds
Our Funding to Date	\$465,000 since 2022
Founded	2001
HQ	Milpitas, CA
Website	sciencebuddies.org



The Problem

In early childhood education, executive function is predictive of reading and math achievement, as well as outcomes beyond schooling and into adulthood. But, in many cases, formative and summative assessments to gauge these skills can be time-consuming for educators to administer and fail to capture holistic child development.

The Innovation

Tools of the Mind provides comprehensive Pre-K and kindergarten curriculum and teacher professional development that support the development of executive function skills for children. Kindergarten programmatic data from 2020-21 show that children in *Tools of the Mind* classrooms were significantly more likely to read at grade level (56 percent) compared to their non-*Tools* counterparts (48 percent).

In 2023, *Tools of the Mind* piloted a new approach to create SEED, an assessment of children's self-regulation development. With the SEED app, teachers periodically assess young children's self-regulation development across the year within a variety of regular classroom activities. SEED captures what a child can do independently or with minimal teacher scaffolding, and identifies if a grade-level task (an assessment "indicator") is currently outside their ability. In addition, children's emotion regulation is recorded in each assessment cycle.

Throughout the year, SEED follows a repeating two-week cycle:

- Week One - Assessment: Teachers assess each child's self-regulation development in a specific activity by observing different aspects of self-regulation in the context of different activities.



Courtesy of Grace Wingard

- Week Two - Application: Teachers make use of an automatically generated Scaffolding Roadmap based on the prior week's data to support each child's self-regulation development, with ideas for how to meet each child where they are and build their self-regulation in multiple activities.

SEED also provides families with actionable ways to support their children's development in coordination with teachers.

Results from the 2023 pilot of SEED show that teachers were able to assess 98 percent of students during regular instruction in the first week of launch, and that assessment using SEED was quick and efficient, with more than 90 percent of individual assessments taking less than 90 seconds. This suggests SEED is able to make measuring and improving executive function skills both time-efficient and accessible for early childhood educators, providing teachers and families with valuable data to support each child's development without taking away crucial time for teachers to focus on these skills in the classroom.



Our Catalytic Role

Overdeck Family Foundation’s multi-year general operating support has provided Tools of the Mind with maximum flexibility as it continues to innovate and scale—in 2023, the organization grew its reach by 25 percent. Since the Foundation first funded Tools of the Mind in 2021, we have intentionally supported efforts to pilot new measures, encouraging the organization to take risks and deliver solutions that address pain points in early childhood classrooms.



Overdeck Family Foundation’s unwavering support has had a transformative impact on our capacity to grow and innovate, enabling us to apply theory and years of research and practice to develop a groundbreaking approach to assess young children’s self-regulation development.

Dr. Deborah Leong
Co-Founder and President

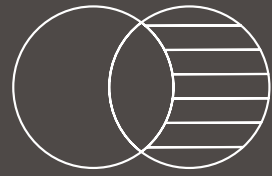
Deborah Leong, Ph.D., is the Co-Founder and President of Tools of the Mind and Professor Emerita of Psychology at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she taught for 36 years in the Psychology Department and in the Department of Education. Dr. Leong developed the Tools of the Mind approach with Dr. Elena Bodrova with whom she has written numerous books, articles, and educational videos on the Vygotskian Approach to Psychology and the development of play. Dr. Leong has also written several books on early childhood assessment with Drs. Bodrova and Oralie McAfee.



Courtesy of Ashley Fuss

Tools of the Mind

Portfolio	Early Impact
Our Funding to Date	\$1,730,500 since 2021
Founded	2019
HQ	Denver, CO
Website	toolsofthemind.org



Unlocking Evidence

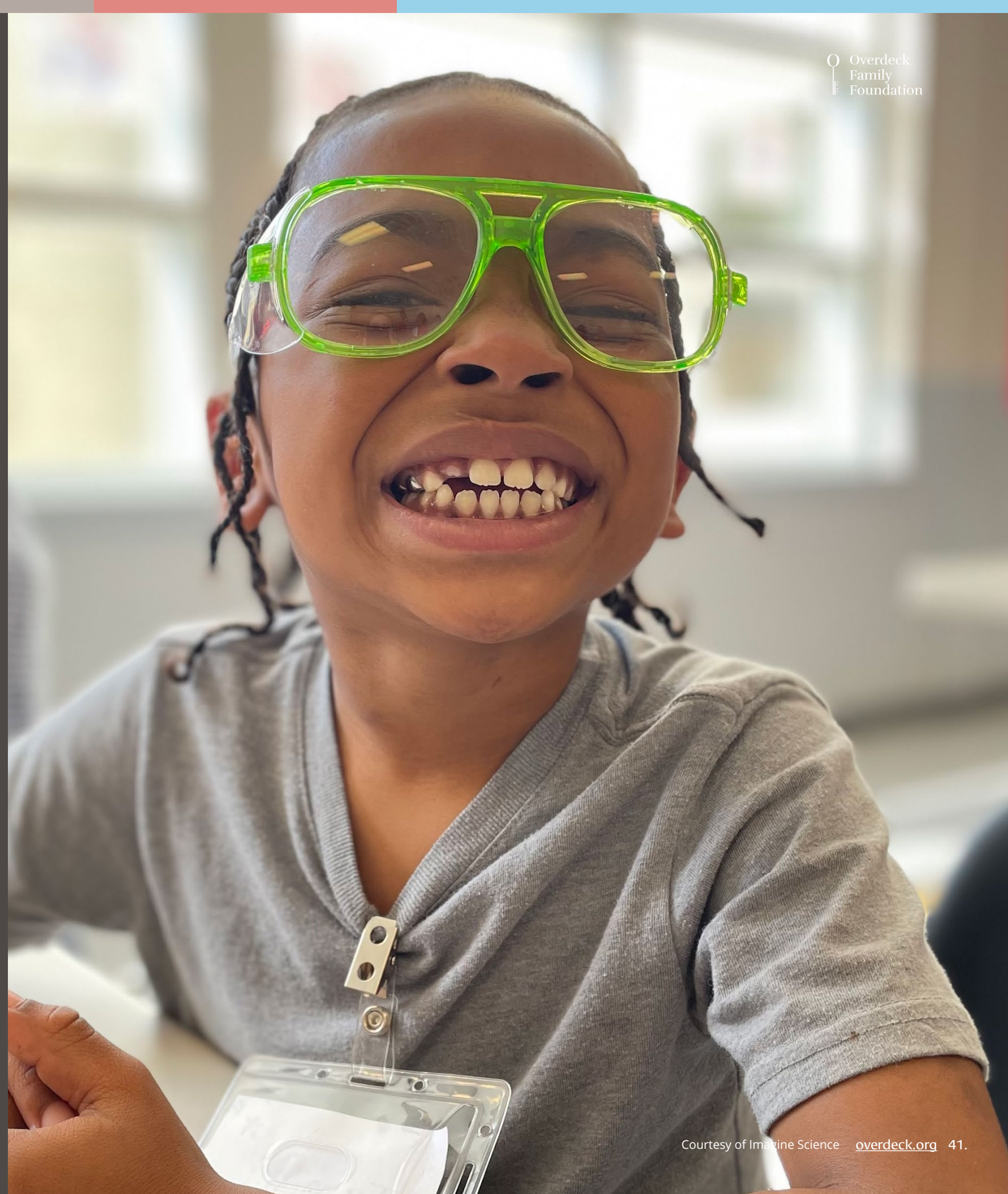
Funding to advance field knowledge or validate program models through comprehensive studies and research.

36

validation and research studies completed

2

grantees increased ESSA tier





The Problem

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) occupations are growing rapidly, with STEM outpacing growth of non-STEM by over four times. But lack of interest in STEM is a major reason people don't enter STEM professions.

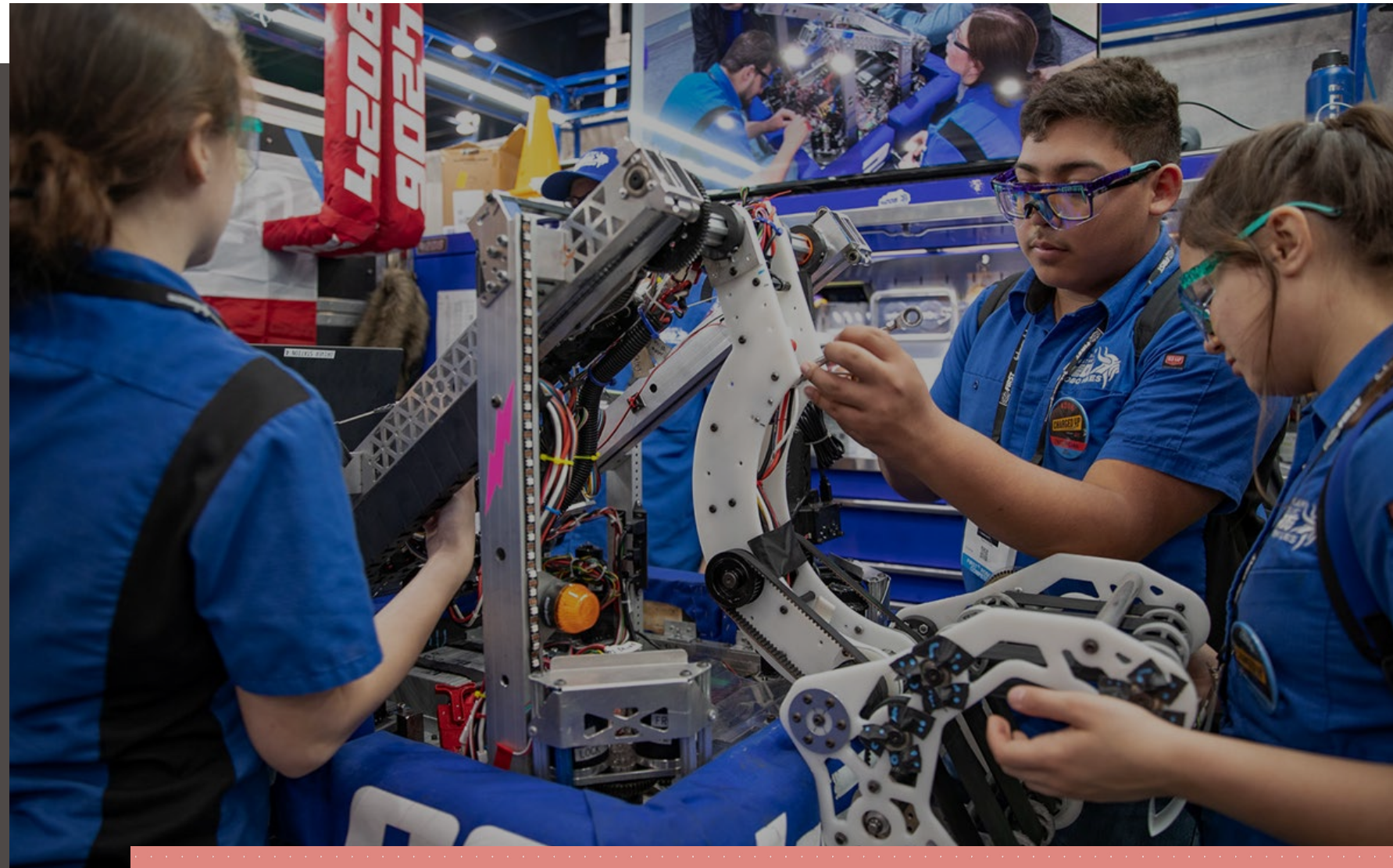
The Evidence

FIRST[®] seeks to inspire young people to consider STEM experiences and careers by engaging them in robotics programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills and inspire innovative solutions to real-world problems. Reaching 336,000 U.S. students in 2023, *FIRST* uses evidence-based strategies to increase student interest in STEM, including hands-on learning, teamwork on real-life problems, exposure to careers and adult mentors, and a robotics competition that completes the experience.

FIRST's commitment to building evidence of impact differentiates it in the out-of-school time field. Since 2018, Overdeck Family Foundation has supported the organization's longitudinal study examining how participation in *FIRST* during middle and high school is associated with long-term outcomes. This year, *FIRST* completed the ninth wave of follow-up surveys.

Nine years after participants' original enrollment, the study continues to find sustained positive benefits of *FIRST* across all identity groups (gender, race/ethnicity, and family income level). Compared to demographically similar students who did not enroll in the program, students who participated in *FIRST*:

- Reported more positive STEM attitudes (2.2 times more interested in STEM, 1.9 times more likely to report strong STEM identity);



- Were more likely to declare a STEM-related major in college, with 81 percent of *FIRST* alumni declaring a STEM major, compared to 64 percent in the comparison group; and
- Participated in STEM careers at higher rates after finishing college, with 61 percent of *FIRST* alumni working in a STEM field, compared to 44 percent in the comparison group.

FIRST has also been building the evidence base for its *FIRST* LEGO[®] League Explore (ages six through 10) and Challenge (ages nine through 16) programs. A recent implementation study indicates positive gains in outcomes like interest in STEM, programming and coding skills, and understanding STEM content, as well as improved social-emotional outcomes like creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving.



Our Catalytic Role

Overdeck Family Foundation has played an instrumental role in supporting *FIRST* in its pursuit of scale and deeper evidence of impact by supporting the organization to increase its reach (especially in New Jersey), pursue a multi-year longitudinal evaluation, and navigate the challenges of rebuilding reach after the significant impact of shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



With generous financial support and invaluable professional guidance from Overdeck Family Foundation, FIRST has made significant strides in measuring and illustrating the life-changing impacts of our programs through a multi-year longitudinal study. The findings are critical for communicating the value of FIRST programs and encouraging more youth around the world to participate.

Chris Moore
CEO

Chris Moore is CEO of the global nonprofit *FIRST*. He joined *FIRST* in 2021, bringing extensive executive leadership, advocacy, and field engagement experience, as well as a passion for building programs that serve youth, families, and communities. For the past 25 years, Chris has driven considerable growth in both corporate and nonprofit organizations, serving in executive leadership roles, most recently as CEO of Positive Coaching Alliance, a youth sports training and content development organization.



FIRST

Portfolio	Inspired Minds
Our Funding to Date	\$2,375,000 since 2017
Founded	1989
HQ	Manchester, NH
Website	firstinspires.org



The Problem

Responsive adult-child interactions, known as conversational turns, are among the most predictive metrics of child outcomes. Yet only four percent of children 18-24 months old consistently receive the optimal level of interaction in childcare settings.

The Evidence

LENA supports young children’s parents, caregivers, and educators with evidence-based programs designed to encourage meaningful adult-child interactions. Its small wearable device for children, often referred to as a “talk pedometer,” measures conversational turns, delivering language environment data that helps adults increase in interactive conversation and highlights opportunities to improve classroom quality and child outcomes.

LENA Grow—the organization’s newest and fastest-growing program—utilizes this talk pedometer technology to offer professional development and individualized strengths-based coaching for early childhood educators. While other LENA programs already had robust evidence of effectiveness, Grow demonstrated potential impact through internal data but had limited external research.

In 2021, LENA launched two independent studies to assess the impact of Grow: a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in collaboration with SproutFive, a childcare provider in Columbus, OH, and a quasi-experimental study in collaboration with Next Door, a childcare provider in Milwaukee, WI. Both studies found positive outcomes, aligned to three areas:

- Grow teachers increased conversational turns after participating in the program;
- Grow teachers increased their job satisfaction compared to non-Grow teachers; and
- The RCT in Columbus found that children in Grow classrooms experienced larger gains in language and literacy skills, compared to children in non-Grow classrooms. The



Courtesy of Jack & Jill Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL

quasi-experimental study in Milwaukee found similar benefits of Grow on Head Start students’ literacy skills.

In Columbus, children enrolled in Grow classrooms saw a statistically significant increase in conversational turns of 13 percent. Children with interaction levels below the national average saw even greater gains, experiencing 80 percent more interaction by the end of the program than they had at the beginning. This increased interaction was also associated with child-level outcomes on standardized measures. Participating children in Columbus saw pre/post average scaled score increases of 39 points on the TS GOLD® child literacy assessment, compared to a loss of two points for their counterparts who did not participate in Grow.

Although more research is needed, this enhanced strength of evidence provides current and potential LENA partners and policymakers a better understanding of the Grow program’s potential impact and the value of expanding its reach to even more families and educators.



Our Catalytic Role

Overdeck Family Foundation has supported LENA since 2017, when it reached around 6,000 children through its programming. Our funding has helped the organization continue to innovate on its program model and generate rigorous evidence to boost performance of early language outcomes, as well as scale to reach 29,000 children in 2023. Carly Roberts, Associate Program Director of Out-of-School Learning at the Foundation, has served on LENA's Board of Directors since 2020. In addition, the Foundation has provided capacity-building support focused on helping LENA better understand and reduce its cost per user as well as enhance its data capacity.



Overdeck Family Foundation's data orientation aligns well with LENA's mission, values, and approach. Their collaborative, trust-based partnership enables us to scale our impact by building capacity and creating timely, data-informed adaptations to our programming.

Dr. Stephen Hannon
President and CEO

Stephen Hannon, Ph.D., is the President and CEO of LENA. Dr. Hannon has steered LENA through its ambitious growth, leveraging technical and leadership skills honed over a 25-year career spanning multiple industries. His experience has provided the foundation for LENA's unique technology to be paired with programmatic impact felt across early childhood.



Courtesy of Jack & Jill Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL

LENA

Portfolio	Early Impact
Our Funding to Date	\$6,249,500 since 2017
Founded	2004
HQ	Louisville, CO
Website	lena.org



The Problem

Recent [New Jersey Student Learning Assessments data](#) found that only 46 percent of third grade students scored proficient or better in math, down from 51 percent in 2019. In English language arts, that rate dropped from 50 percent in 2019 to 42 percent in 2023.



The Evidence

The [New Jersey Tutoring Corps](#) provides high-dosage tutoring in math and literacy for Pre-K through eighth grade students across New Jersey. The program uses one of three evidence-based models to deliver its support directly to students: embedded during the school day, scheduled after school, or integrated into summer programming.

In SY 2022-23, the New Jersey Tutoring Corps piloted its embedded school-day program designed to provide high-dosage tutoring as part of the school day for students. Groups of one to four students met 30- to 60-minute sessions two to three times per week, with the same tutor for the duration of the program, which typically lasted 12 to 15 weeks.

An [external evaluation](#) of the school-day program, conducted by Dr. Ellen Behrstock-Sherratt, found that, of the approximately 500 students served during the 12 to 15 week evaluation period, the percentage performing at grade level in math improved from 16 to 40 percent across grade levels; in literacy, the percent of students at grade level grew from 23 to 40 percent. Proficiency gains were particularly large in math, an important finding given a substantial body of [research](#) linking early math skills to [long-term benefits](#) for students. Importantly, students' confidence in their own skills as learners and their academic content knowledge also improved.



Our Catalytic Role

Overdeck Family Foundation helped conceive and found the New Jersey Tutoring Corps in 2021, as a response to COVID-induced learning loss across the state. Since then, we have provided consultative support and general operating grants, which helped the organization unlock additional sources of funding, establish its 501(c)(3) status, and work towards a long-term strategy to improve sustainability and increase reach.



Overdeck Family Foundation's support has been a driving catalyst for our ability to spin out as a 501(c)(3), hire staff, and attract public and private funding. The Foundation has enabled the New Jersey Tutoring Corps to reach over 8,000 scholars statewide since our inception, growing their academic skills and confidence as learners while strengthening the educator pipeline.

Katherine Bassett
CEO

Katherine Bassett, Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Tutoring Corps, Inc., previously served as Director of Policy and Partnerships for the Center for Educator Effectiveness at Pearson, as well as the Director of the Educator Relations Group at Educational Testing Service, CEO of the National Network of State Teachers of the Year, and Co-Founder and CEO of RAD Science Solutions. Katherine spent 26 years in the classroom as a middle school librarian and was named New Jersey's 2000 State Teacher of the Year.



New Jersey Tutoring Corps

Portfolio	New Jersey
Our Funding to Date	\$1,241,350 since 2021
Founded	2021
HQ	New Jersey
Website	njtutoringcorps.org



The Problem

In 2022, only 33 percent of fourth grade students nationwide performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level on the reading assessment.

The Evidence

[OnYourMark Education](#) provides high-impact virtual tutoring for 20 minutes a day, four days a week, to students in kindergarten through second grade. The organization recruits, trains, and manages tutors from across the country, matching them with schools seeking to increase students' reading ability. Throughout the school year, tutors meet with students using a video conferencing platform during regularly scheduled small-group instruction or independent learning. Grounded in the science of reading with a focus on foundational literacy skills, OnYourMark's tutoring reaches more than 2,000 students at 23 partner schools across the country.

In 2022, Overdeck Family Foundation was the sole funder of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) designed to understand the potential impact of OnYourMark's virtual tutoring on student learning. Conducted by a team of researchers from Stanford University led by Susanna Loeb, [the study](#) examined over 2,000 students across 12 schools. About half of the students were randomly assigned to receive tutoring from OnYourMark while the other half were randomly assigned to receive instruction as usual. Study findings revealed that one-on-one virtual OnYourMark tutoring had a positive impact on students' early literacy skills, as measured with an assessment called the [DIBELS](#). OnYourMark had the largest effects on kindergarteners' knowledge of letter sounds and first graders' decoding skills. Researchers concluded that impacts on these domains translated into as much as 24 extra days of learning letter sounds for kindergartners and 51 extra days of decoding for first graders.



OnYourMark's RCT is the first of its kind to test the impact of virtual tutoring on young learners. The results point to the potential of virtual instruction to reach more students, whether they are in rural schools or schools that are struggling to recruit and hire tutoring staff, as well as potential insight into how high-dosage tutoring can become more cost-effective and sustainable in the future through the use of technology.

Bolstered by this evidence, OnYourMark continues to innovate on ways to improve the cost-effectiveness of high-quality tutoring. This year, the organization launched a pilot with Overdeck Family Foundation grantee [Illuminate Literacy](#) building on previous [Foundation-funded research](#) into the effectiveness of blended tutoring models. The pilot will unearth additional insight into the efficacy of tutoring programs when paired with technology platforms.



Our Catalytic Role

In addition to providing funding for OnYourMark’s RCT, which sets up the organization to meet “Tier 1” evidence standards as established by ESSA, Overdeck Family Foundation also provides OnYourMark with general operating support that has enabled it to iterate on the delivery of its model, improve its data systems to handle increased reach, and invest in its growth teams, resulting in more students receiving high-impact virtual tutoring and, potentially, reading on grade level.



Overdeck Family Foundation has been instrumental for OnYourMark’s ability to engage in research to support both program efficacy and continuous improvement. It’s clear the Foundation believes in OnYourMark’s mission to ensure young people become readers and the power of data to grow our reach.

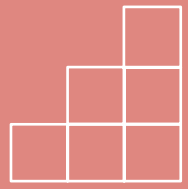
Mindy Sjoblom
Founder and CEO

Mindy Sjoblom, Founder and CEO of OnYourMark, started the organization with a passion for early literacy and deep experience building systems to cultivate and develop educators. While preparing to launch OnYourMark, Mindy served as an Entrepreneur in Residence at Charter School Growth Fund where she started her early literacy journey. Previously, Mindy served as Founding Dean of Relay Chicago where she oversaw all aspects of campus growth/strategy, financial health, partnership development, political advocacy, and teacher preparation programming.



OnYourMark

Portfolio	Innovative Schools
Our Funding to Date	\$1,450,000 since 2022
Founded	2021
HQ	Chicago, IL
Website	onyourmarkeducation.org



Unlocking Growth

Funding for organizations to scale, as measured by increased earned revenue and reach, improved capacities, and follow-on funding.

31 grantees increased reach

22 grantees increased earned revenue





The Problem

Only 18 percent of students are “very interested” in pursuing a career in engineering, despite engineering jobs being a critical workforce need with strong projected employment growth over the next 10 years.

The Growth

DiscoverE raises awareness about engineering experiences and careers and promotes student engagement in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through programs like Future City, National Engineers Week, and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. The organization’s signature program, Future City, offers middle school students the chance to use the engineering design process to solve a civic engineering challenge related to sustainability in a hypothetical city in the future. The challenge taps into students’ curiosity, problem-solving skills, and concern for the future and environment, and culminates in a national showcase where teams display their solutions and receive feedback from expert judges in the field.

In SY 2022-23, Future City grew its reach by 94 percent, serving 67,000 students, nearly 1.5 times DiscoverE’s target of 45,000. This strong growth demonstrates continued demand for out-of-school engineering programs, as well as the success of the organization’s strategic staffing shifts and new investments in marketing. Educators and students who participate in Future City report positive impacts: 80 percent of students increase their understanding of engineering, 77 percent of students are exposed to STEM content they don’t normally receive, and 78 percent of educators recommend the program.



Based on strong interest for Future City among middle school students, this year DiscoverE launched Future City High School, a new pilot to bring its existing competition format to the high school age band. The team started enrolling new educators and teams in August 2023, providing an additional opportunity to continue growing student engagement and interest in engineering.



Our Catalytic Role

DiscoverE has maximized capacity-building support from Overdeck Family Foundation, participating in the RevJen Fuel Series, a leadership cohort with The Center for Creative Leadership, and Listen4Good. Through these engagements, the team has built alignment on prioritizing earned revenue as part of its overall revenue model, and clarified internal roles and responsibilities as it seeks to scale its programming more aggressively.



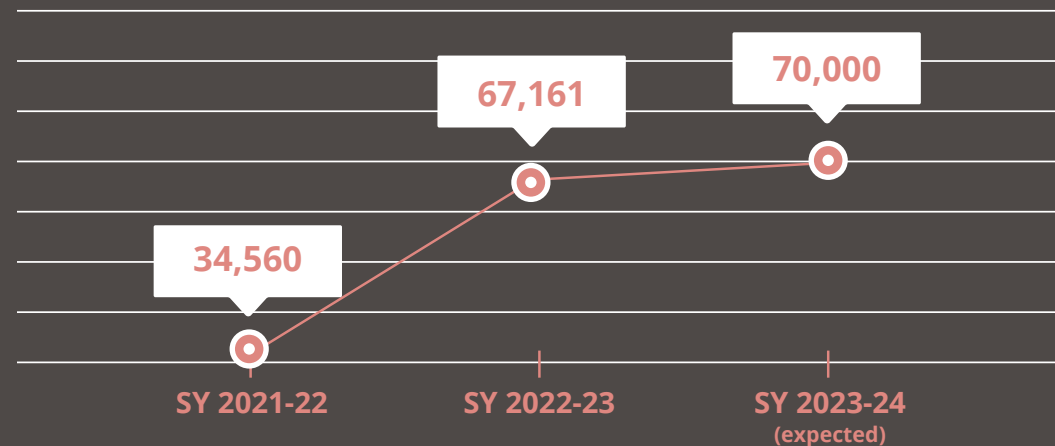
Overdeck Family Foundation's support and guidance have been instrumental in helping us grow our Middle School Future City program and exceed our goals for expanding STEM access for underserved K-12 students.

Kathy Renzetti
Executive Director

Kathy Renzetti has more than 29 years of experience working with small to mid-sized organizations, with 22 years of experience focused on nonprofits and philanthropy. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director for DiscoverE, with a dual mission of celebrating the accomplishments of engineers and engaging K-12 students in engineering. Prior to this, in her position at The Giving Collaborative, Kathy provided personalized counsel to nonprofit organizations across the United States.

Number of Middle School Students Participating in Future City

The number of middle school students participating in Future City is projected to nearly double from SY 2021-22 to SY 2023-24.



DiscoverE

Portfolio	Inspired Minds
Our Funding to Date	\$800,000 since 2021
Founded	1990
HQ	Alexandria, VA
Website	discovere.org



The Problem

Despite research demonstrating the critical impact of high-quality instructional materials on student success, less than 20 percent of materials used in classrooms nationwide are aligned to standards.

The Growth

EdReports provides reviews of K-12 instructional materials and supports districts and states in selecting high-quality instructional materials. Since the launch of its first reviews in 2015, EdReports has impacted nearly 16 million students in more than 1,400 districts, and influenced more than 40 publishers to improve their materials. In this past year alone, the organization reached 3.2 million unique website visitors (a 45 percent year-over-year increase), with 114 of the largest 200 districts, representing over nine million students, reporting use of EdReports to guide curricular decisions.

With the growth in independent information about the quality of instructional materials, the availability and use of standards-aligned English language arts (ELA) and mathematics programs continue to grow. In 2022, 36 percent of teachers reported using at least one aligned



ELA curriculum once a week or more, on average—an increase of 10 percentage points over 2020 and 2021. Forty-eight percent of teachers reported using at least one aligned mathematics curriculum regularly—an eight-percentage-point increase from 2021.

In addition to the growing use of its platform, EdReports has experienced a notable rise in demand for its technical assistance services. This has resulted in 19 new or expanded partnerships with states, districts, local education agencies, and nonprofits, designed to help partners build capacity to review and select high-quality and standards-aligned curricula.



Our Catalytic Role

In 2023, Overdeck Family Foundation’s funding and strategic support allowed EdReports to prioritize innovation in the short term and strategic planning for the future. Based on current market demand, EdReports launched its Science of Reading Snapshots, which feature essential elements to look for when evaluating ELA instructional materials for kindergarten through fifth grade. The Snapshots are designed to make it easier for districts and educators to identify early literacy programs that are high quality, support all teachers in helping children learn to read, and meet new state requirements around the science of reading.

Additionally, following collaborative engagements with NorthStar Education Partners and EdSolutions, the organization has prioritized refreshing existing reports and exploring expansion into Pre-K, science, social studies, and supplemental materials through 2027.



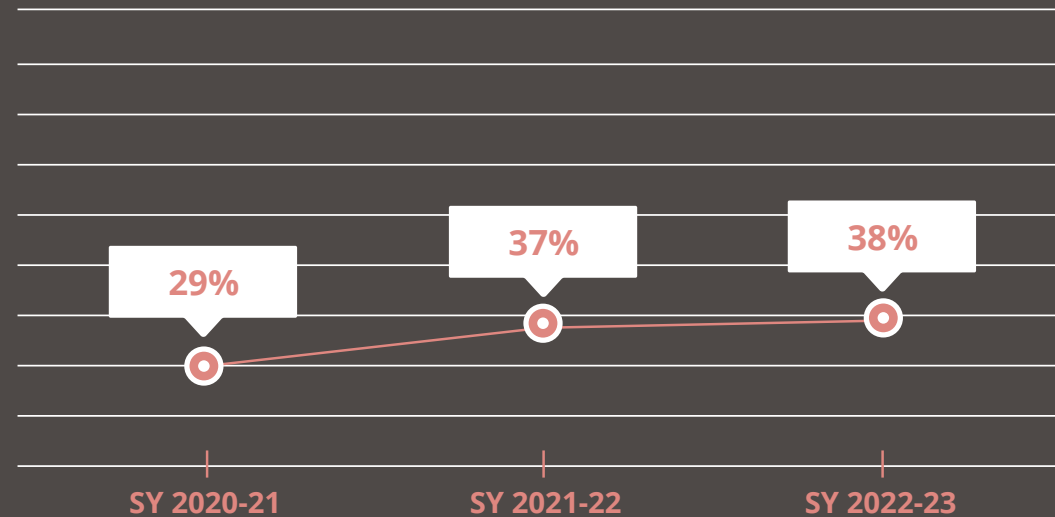
Overdeck Family Foundation has helped us make strides toward a future where quality materials are in the hands of every teacher and every student in the country. We could have never reached over 16 million students without their dedication and support.

Eric Hirsch
Executive Director

Eric Hirsch is the Founding Executive Director of EdReports. Prior to joining the organization, Eric was the Chief External Affairs Officer at the New Teacher Center, the Executive Director of the Center for Teaching Quality, and the Education Program Manager at the National Conference of State Legislatures. He has supported policymakers in 40 states, written and published more than 150 articles, book chapters, reports, and policy briefs, and presented at conferences across the country on topics ranging from school governance to teaching quality.

Percent of Districts Nationwide Who Use or Have Heard of EdReports

Over the past three years, EdReports has grown its district reach across the U.S. by nine percentage points.



EdReports

Portfolio	Exceptional Educators
Our Funding to Date	\$3,699,315 since 2017
Founded	2015
HQ	Durham, NC
Website	edreports.org



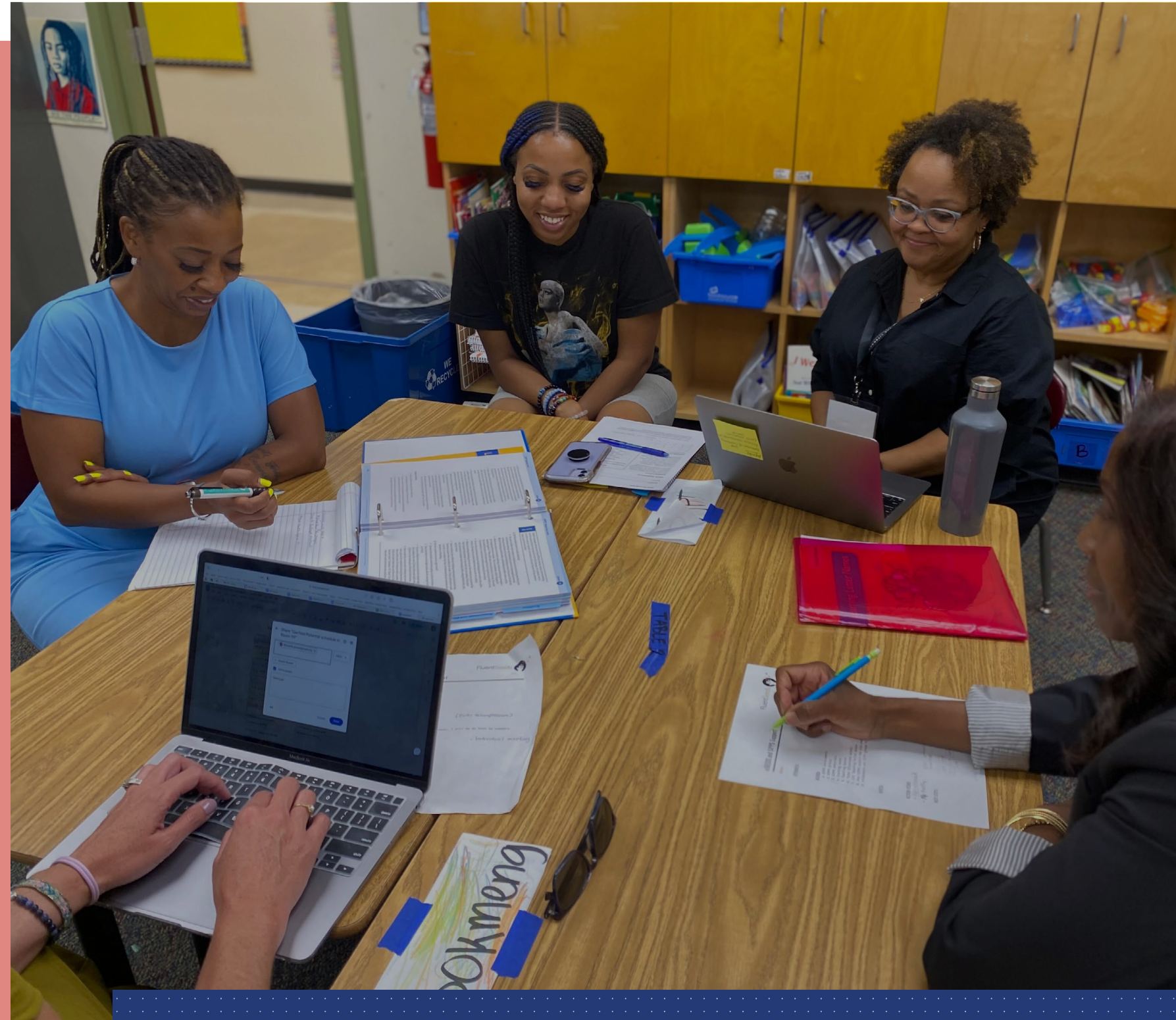
The Problem

Staff training and professional development (PD) opportunities are key drivers of early learning environment quality, but only 18 out of 62 state-funded preschool programs met NIEER's threshold for supplying quality PD in SY 2021-22.

The Growth

FluentSeeds is an evidence-based PD organization that combines professional development training and materials with coaching and parent education, emphasizing quality in-classroom interactions and kindergarten readiness. In randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental studies conducted 2017 to 2021, children participating in SEEDS acquired gains of two to eight months of additional learning compared to children not in SEEDS programs. Subgroup analysis found that the program was equally effective for all Pre-K students regardless of race/ethnicity, gender, or multilingual learner status.

When Overdeck Family Foundation first learned of FluentSeeds in 2021, the organization was reaching just 11,000 children and grew primarily by reputation. Today, FluentSeeds reaches over 30,000 children, up from 21,000 the year before. This rapid growth is a result of more strategic customer acquisition and sales processes, which allow more young children to benefit from well-trained educators and high-quality early learning.





Our Catalytic Role

Overdeck Family Foundation has provided FluentSeeds with capacity-building support designed to help the organization better understand and define its target customer, as well as build a sales playbook. We encouraged FluentSeeds to participate in the Promising Ventures Fellowship, which helped the organization strengthen its outbound growth by developing a repeatable and reliable sales process, as well as engage with Listen4Good to better understand its customers' needs and respond to them. As a result, FluentSeeds' NPS score is now an impressive 80, 18 points higher than the previous year.



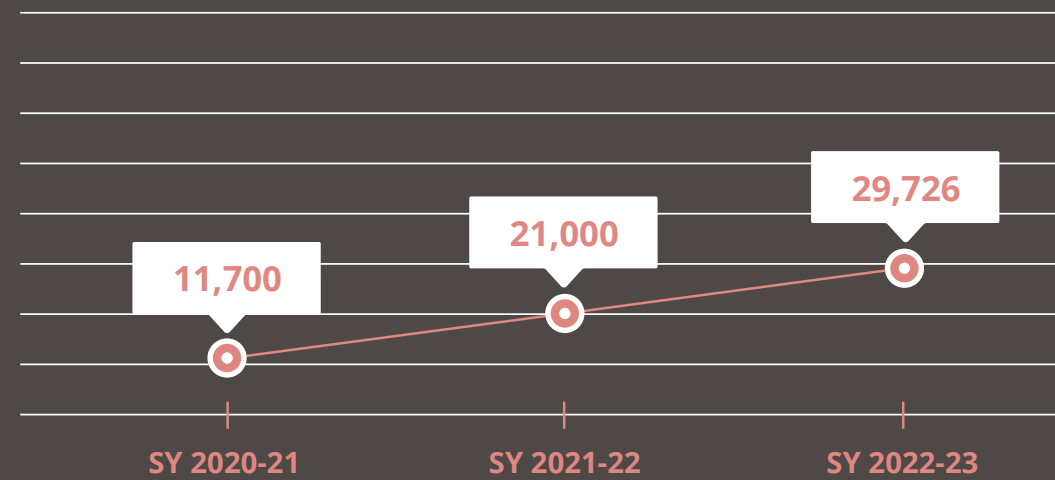
Support from Overdeck Family Foundation has enabled FluentSeeds to carefully tend to all of our current partners, double the number of classrooms we serve in critical regions, and expand our impact with new partnerships across California.

Kate Horst
Executive Director

Kate Horst is the Executive Director of FluentSeeds. Kate has defined pathways for reading success by third grade by working with some of the lead thinkers in education for nearly three decades. Her work began through collaboration with the University of Minnesota and over many years moved through Reading Corps Pre-K, Early Reading First Grants, the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, CARES for Learning, and now, FluentSeeds. Kate's work has grown to serve communities in 12 states and Washington, DC.

Number of Children Reached By FluentSeeds Educators

FluentSeeds has grown its reach by more than 18,000 children since the organization's first year of implementation



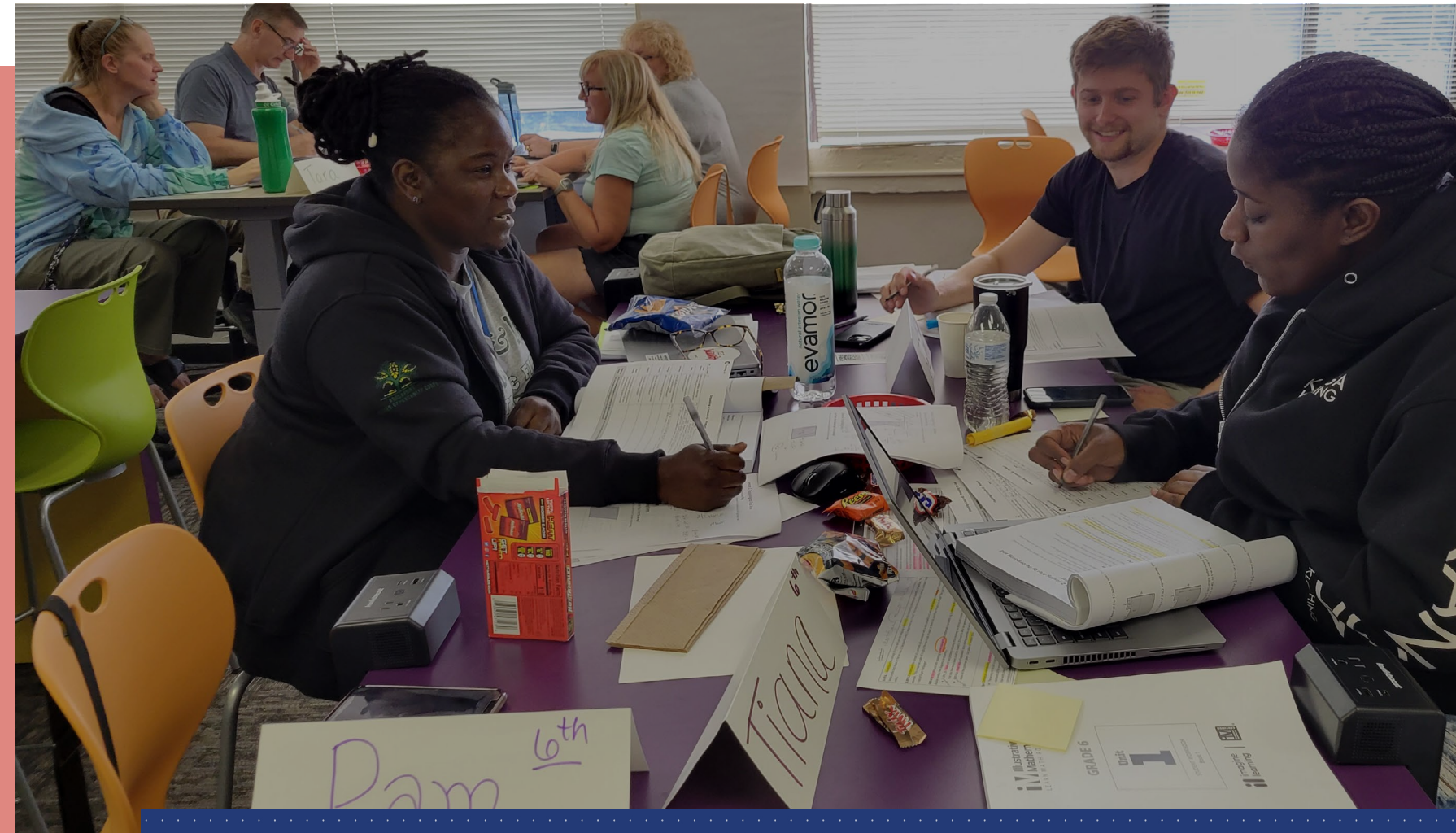
FluentSeeds

Portfolio	Early Impact
Our Funding to Date	\$455,000 since 2022
Founded	2020
HQ	Stillwater, MN
Website	fluentseeds.org



The Problem

Teachers can have a greater impact on student outcomes if they receive curriculum-based professional learning, but approximately 23 percent of teachers report receiving no support on curriculum implementation, and 38 percent received only one to five hours over the course of the academic year.



The Growth

Teaching Lab is a research-based professional learning organization focused on providing educators with professional learning aligned to high-quality instructional materials and developing teacher leadership capacity to improve student outcomes.

Over the past year, Teaching Lab has reached 11,000 teachers (a 47 percent increase) and 730,000 students. The organization has accomplished this through continued expansion via large district and state procurement contracts, as well as by using blended delivery models and AI-enabled support that extend its reach while maintaining program quality. Recently, Teaching Lab launched an AI in Education fellowship program through its Innovation Studio, which will allow the organization to harness the power of AI to improve teacher practice and student learning and support its efforts to sustainably scale to more educators nationwide.

In the process of scaling, Teaching Lab has continued to generate evidence of impact on teacher practice and student learning: increasing teacher content knowledge 13 percent across partnerships; improving teacher practice 30 percent across partnerships; and increasing student learning 13 percent across partnerships. In some larger partnerships, Teaching Lab has demonstrated even more impressive student learning gains, for example, a 46 percent increase in student proficiency rates on grade-level tasks among New Mexico middle school classrooms with Teaching Lab-supported teachers. Teacher satisfaction also remains high, with over 90 percent of teachers expressing satisfaction with their professional development.



Our Catalytic Role

Overdeck Family Foundation has funded Teaching Lab since 2016, and the organization’s current CEO is a Foundation alumna. In addition to providing general operating support to help Teaching Lab generate evidence of impact and scale nationally, the Foundation is also supporting Teaching Lab’s new partnership with NYC Reads for SY 2023-24. This work will pair Teaching Lab with five new districts in New York City to implement high-quality English language arts and math curricula and support teachers through professional development aligned to these curricula.



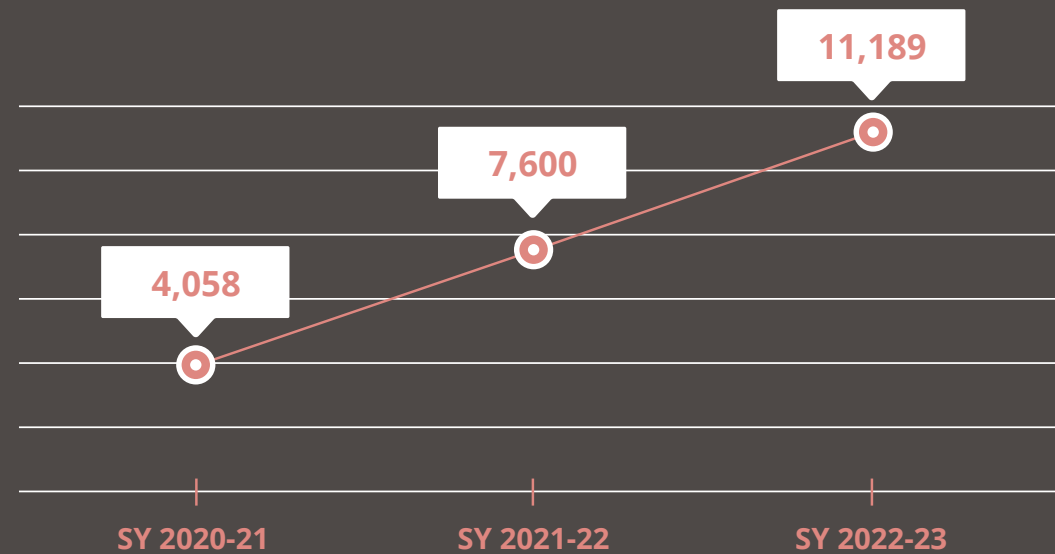
I wouldn’t be the leader I am today without Overdeck Family Foundation. During my time there, I learned about supporting and scaling nonprofits, and today, am privileged to get to apply what I learned through my role at Teaching Lab. In addition to supporting me as a leader, the Foundation has played a critical role in helping Teaching Lab sustainably grow while maintaining our impact

Dr. Sarah Johnson
CEO

Sarah Johnson, Ph.D., CEO of Teaching Lab, previously held leadership positions with Overdeck Family Foundation and the New York City Department of Education. Dr. Johnson was also a high school science teacher and founder of a social justice student leadership program in Washington, DC and Oakland, CA.

Number of Educators Reached Nationally by Teaching Lab

Teaching Lab grew its reach by more than 7,000 educators over the last three years.



Teaching Lab

Portfolio	Exceptional Educators
Our Funding to Date	\$5,625,000 since 2016
Founded	2016
HQ	New York, NY
Website	teachinglab.org

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Providing all children
the opportunity to unlock
their potential.