

# read ahead

## In-Person Read Ahead Sessions: May 2023

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

We are thrilled to offer the opportunity for mentors and mentees to meet in-person before the end of the 2022-2023 program year. This page includes a series of common questions about our in-person sessions in May 2023.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Program Coordinator.

#### **Are these in-person sessions mandatory? What if I can't make it?**

- We would like as many mentors to join and get the opportunity to meet their mentees but we completely understand if your schedule does not allow for you to join, or if you are not based in the greater NYC area. We will invite all students to participate in the session and will have members of Read Ahead staff and board present to work with students whose mentors cannot attend.

#### **Where is my school located?**

- All information including your school's address will be included in the Eventbrite RSVP invitation.

#### **What do I need to bring to the session to meet my mentee? What will my mentee and I do during the in-person session?**

- There is nothing required on your end to bring to the in-person session. Your Program Coordinator will bring all resources to support your time with your mentee. You will spend your time with your mentee getting to know each other, reflecting on the year, and reading books together.

#### **Will the in-person session take place during my regular session time?**

- Due to the logistics of planning in-person sessions at school sites, this varies across schools. Your Program Coordinator will share your specific date and time for your session via email during the week of March 28.

#### **Will my co-mentor also be invited to the same session?**

- Yes! Both co-mentors are invited to the same session.

# read ahead

## **What if my mentee can attend but I cannot?**

- We hope that your co-mentor can join; however, if neither of you are able to attend, your mentee will still be able to participate in the end of year celebration with a small group of mentees.

## **I mentor on Saturdays. Will there be any Saturday times offered?**

- No, you will be invited to a weekday session and time for your in-person session with your mentee. We are unable to run Saturday programming at schools.

## **Will transportation be provided to commute to the school?**

- No, transportation will not be provided.

## **Will I be able to meet my mentee's parents / caregivers / teachers?**

- Mentee's caregivers will not join the in-person sessions. They will be picking up their children after the sessions end. Teachers will also not be involved in the session. Our goal is to focus the session on you meeting your mentee in-person and spending time together.

## **How do I RSVP? When is the deadline to RSVP?**

- You will receive an email with an Eventbrite RSVP link during the week of March 28. We ask that you RSVP as soon as possible for planning purposes.

## **How will I know if my mentee is attending?**

- Your Program Coordinator will be following with your mentee and their family and will let you know if your mentee is attending or is unable to attend.

## **Can I change my RSVP status on Eventbrite?**

- Yes! If your schedule changes, we encourage you to use the same Eventbrite link to update your RSVP status. This will help your Program Coordinator plan the sessions accordingly.

## **When is the last day of Read Ahead?**

- Final weeks of Read Ahead program sessions are during Saturday, May 13 - Thursday, May 25. Your Program Coordinator will ensure that you and your mentee have a 1:1 virtual program closeout session before your in-person session.

# read ahead

## **Will there be a make-up session on a different week if I can't make the initial date?**

- Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to lead make-up sessions at our school partners. We are working very closely with school leadership teams to ensure there is classroom space for your in-person session with your mentee.

## **Why did I receive an email from a different Program Coordinator I typically work with?**

- Each Program Coordinator is assigned to an individual Read Ahead school partner to support in-person sessions. Your mentee will be attending the in-person session at the school they are currently enrolled in.

## **If I can't make it, will I still have a wrap-up session with my mentee?**

- Absolutely. Your Program Coordinator is closely monitoring all RSVP status updates and will make sure that, if you can't join the in-person sessions, they help facilitate a wrap up session the week beforehand for a closeout session with your mentee.

## **Do I need to bring my laptop?**

- Mentors are not expected to bring their laptops. This will be a no-laptop session where you and your mentee will celebrate the year together and focus on spending time together.

## **Do I need to bring my COVID vaccine card to enter the school building?**

- No. The New York City Department of Education has removed the mandated COVID vaccine requirements for all visitors. Please bring an ID card to sign into the school when you enter the building. There will be a Read Ahead staff member there to show you where the sessions will take place.

## **Am I allowed to take photos with my mentee when I meet with them in-person?**

- No. Read Ahead staff will be in charge of taking photos of matches during your sessions to ensure that mentees who are included in photos have had their caregiver complete a consent form. If you have any questions on the day of your session, feel free to speak directly to a Read Ahead staff member who will be there to support you.

## **Can I bring a gift for my mentee?**

# read ahead

- Gifts to mentees are strictly prohibited. Please do not bring a gift for your mentee on the day of your in-person session. Our Read Ahead team is working to finalize some giveaways for all mentees across our school partners.