read ahead

share a page in a child's life

THEORY OF CHANGE

OUR MISSION

Read Ahead provides elementary school students with reading-based mentoring programs and the resources that strengthen their confidence and prepare them for future success.



OUR APPROACH

Read Ahead carefully matches students at under-resourced schools with adult mentors from different backgrounds with whom they can build and maintain caring, consistent, one-on-one relationships outside of their family, caregivers and teachers.

By reading together, mentors reinforce the importance of literacy in a safe, fun setting where students build trust and develop deeper connections with their mentors over time. Read Ahead empowers students to direct their own reading choices based on their interests and curiosities, allowing for agency over what they want to explore while increasing their interest in reading.

Our reading-based mentoring program supplements other aspects of students' lives—regardless of where they start academically—so that all students have more opportunities to experience and celebrate their successes, and boost their confidence and self-esteem over time. Read Ahead provides additional programming and tools for caregivers to support their children at home and become more confident young readers. For Read Ahead students, reading becomes a fun, exciting, enjoyable activity. Most importantly, reading becomes a valuable tool that students know how to apply and deploy in many other aspects of their lives.

OUR PRIMARY PROGRAM

Provides the **structure, guidance and setting** for facilitating impactful mentor-mentee relationships

Leverages **partnerships** with school administrators and teachers to **integrate** programming into the school day

Attracts and retains committed, caring adult mentors who **expose students** to different academic and career experiences

Fosters highly personalized, consistent one-on-one **mentoring relationships** where students build trust with an adult outside of their family, caregivers or teachers

Provides tools and resources, as well as time and support outside the traditional classroom setting, to **encourage and make reading fun**

Is rooted in **students' holistic development** with an emphasis on literacy and social emotional learning skills

OUR IMPACT

Students who participate in Read Ahead

- Receive **greater and dedicated literacy exposure** and dosage through their dedicated one-on-one relationships with mentors.
- Develop an expanded worldview where they **enjoy and are excited to read**.
- Are **exposed to different types of books** than they might otherwise have access to.
- Are positioned to demonstrate **academic growth and literacy improvement**, including growth in reading skills and comprehension.
- Receive emotional modeling and support that **increases their confidence** and socialization.



OUR VISION

We envision a world where all students have the support they need to become confident readers, helping them unlock their full potential.