



SCHOOL ON WHEELS

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE DURING COVID-19

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Rebuilding our programs

When schools shifted to at-home learning in March, we rebuilt our program model to meet needs differently. In addition to addressing the growing education equity gap, we targeted the basic needs of the students and families we serve.

- Collaborated with school social workers to update parents of students in our program on school closings, connect them to free food resources, and address their questions and concerns.
- Connected with partner school and shelter staff to assess gaps in internet and technology access.
- Created grade-level aligned resource packets for PreK – 6th grade students and delivered to shelter partners.
- Filled backpacks with necessary school supplies for school partners. These backpacks were distributed with tablets to support at-home learning for families.
- Developed virtual tutoring opportunities for our staff to remain connected to our kids.
- Shifted our summer programming to provide a virtual/low-contact hybrid literacy and enrichment program and expanded to five locations, more than doubling our partners served.



Remember when you would come and get me at lunch and we would all eat together and I would get to see my tutor? I love my tutors! They would read to me. Oh, I miss them so much!

- 2ND GRADE SCHOOL ON WHEELS STUDENT DURING VIRTUAL TUTORING

DOING MORE WITH LESS

Reworking our volunteer model

Since March, our staff have expanded case management services for the families of children enrolled in our programs as we work together to overcome the new obstacles that COVID-19 has presented. Our team is tutoring virtually, socially distanced in motel parking lots, and with PPE and safety dividers at select sites where we are allowed to tutor in person.

During a typical school year, our staff is supported by 400 trained volunteer tutors who help provide 6,000 tutoring sessions. Due to COVID-19 restrictions limiting the number of visitors at partner sites, we are only able to use 10% of our volunteer force, despite dedicated volunteers who are eager to resume in-person tutoring. Our team is working hard to meet student need.

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As a school leader and educator in our city for the last decade, I have seen the challenging circumstances that impact our students experiencing homelessness across multiple schools. Cold Spring is the only school I have been at with a relationship with School on Wheels. The difference in support, success, and confidence of our students experiencing homelessness is not even comparable to the other schools I have worked at that did not have a partnership with School on Wheels. Quite simply, I have seen the transformational impact it has made on our students and I hope that one day every school in our city would have the opportunity to partner with this great organization.

- Cody S. Stipes, Cold Spring School Principal

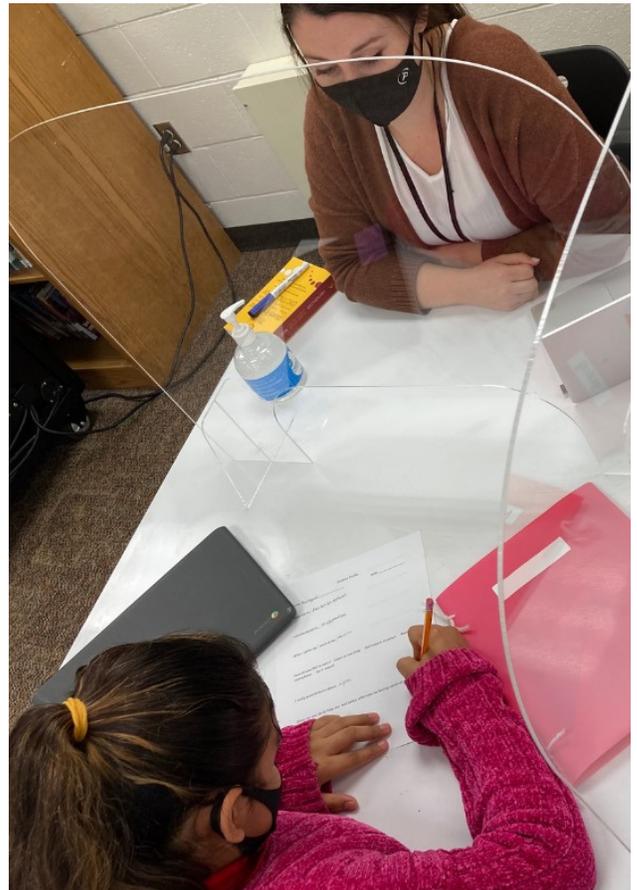
MEETING A GROWING NEED

Expanding to serve more locations

This school year our programming has continued to adapt and evolve to best support the academic needs of students experiencing homelessness across Indianapolis.

When Marion County schools returned to 100% virtual learning, School on Wheels opened two learning pods to provide in-person support for students completing virtual learning. In addition to creating learning pods, we developed our first partnership exclusively serving high school students at Indianapolis Metropolitan High School.

We continue to work with school districts and partners to adapt to the ongoing need.



Without intervention, children impacted by homelessness are eight to nine times more likely to be held back a grade. Recent studies have found that COVID-19-related out of school time may exacerbate existing achievement gaps by 15% to 20%. With the support of our community, we can prevent this achievement gap from growing.

A full month of academic support for one School on Wheels student is \$100.