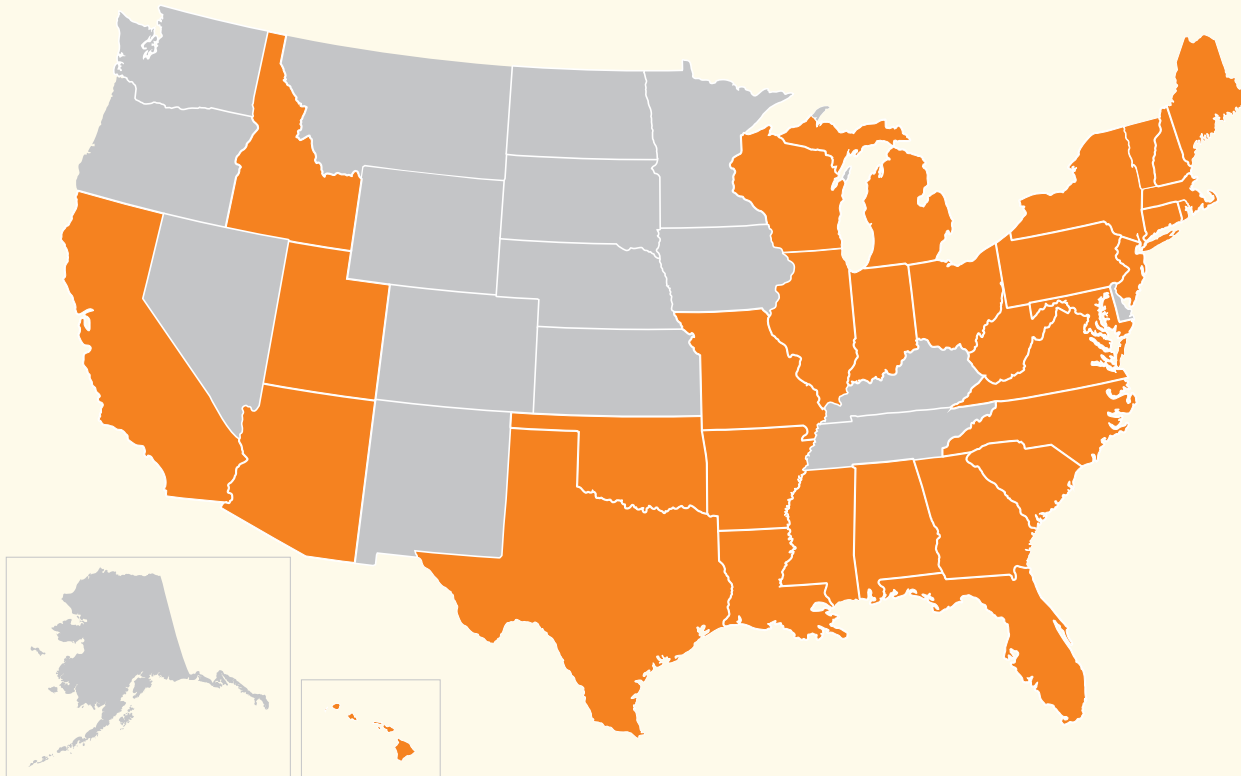


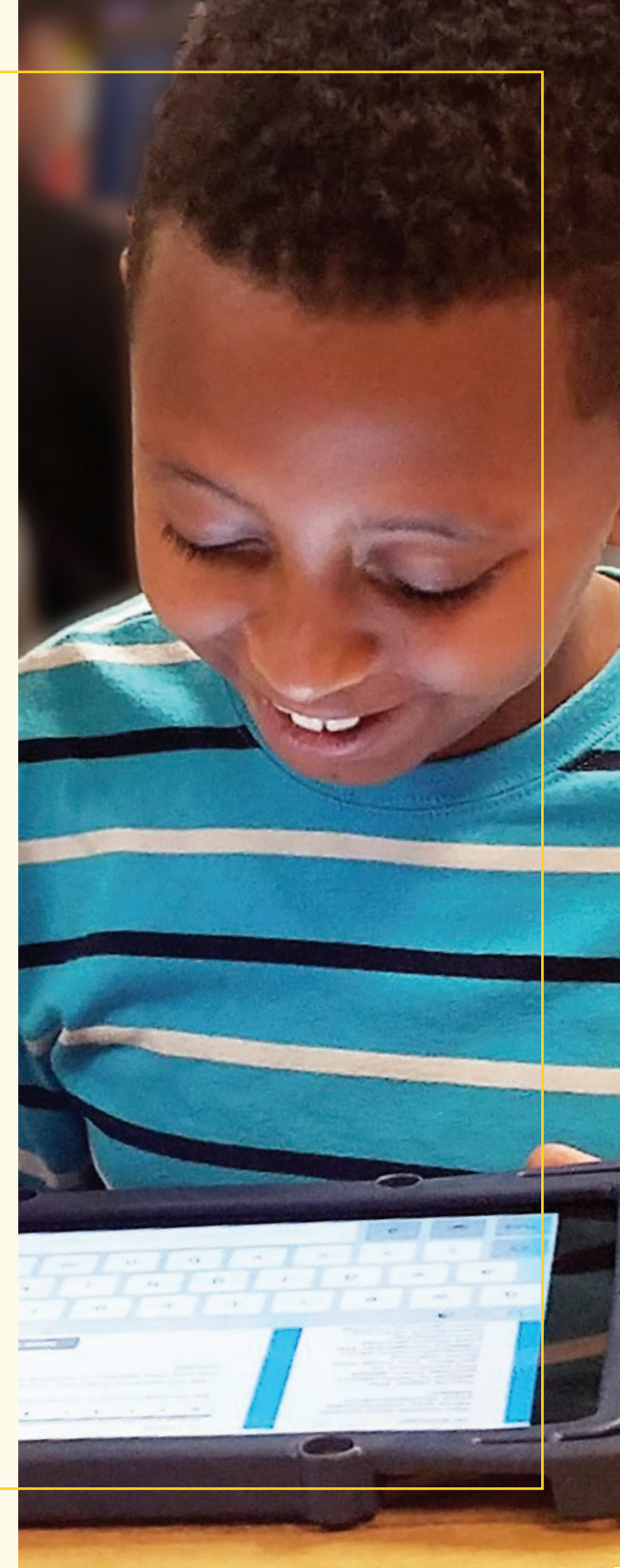
2021-2022 Annual Report



Cricket Together

TryEngineering
TOGETHER
Powered by IEEE and In2Books

For ages 12 and under
Virtual MENTORING PORTAL



INTRODUCTION

Dear Corporate Partnerships, Mentoring Organizations, School Leaders, Teachers, eMentors, and Cricket Together Colleagues:

2021-2022 was an interesting and amazing year! We commend our school leaders and teachers as they were faced with disruptive variables this academic school year due to continued COVID-19 challenges. We send our appreciation and gratitude for your resilience as you dedicate your career to serving our youth.

We thank our Corporate Sponsors and Points of Contact for sponsoring classrooms by providing volunteer employee eMentors with an opportunity to serve a one-to-one student match in schools across the US. Your commitment to empower academic and personal growth is celebrated.

We thank our Mentoring Organizations for thinking outside of the box to increase your mentoring engagement opportunities by utilizing our Virtual Mentoring Portal and the CricketTogether Program. Your commitment to bridging community and school support is commendable.

This annual report provides an overview of the impact of our 2021-2022 goals and the overall impact of our Together eMentoring Programs. As the saying goes, "It takes a village." Thank you to our diverse Together eMentoring Community for being that village to help inspire and support children.

With appreciation,
Tracy Heitmeier, Director of Education Products,
Christina Johnson, Together eMentor Program Coordinator

*A special thanks to the **Together eMentoring Team**: Laura Woodside-Senior Vice President-Education Products, Cynthia Nugent-Digital Education Editor, Laura Eggleston-eMentoring Team, Sabrina Gharbi-eMentoring Team, Linn McClelland-Senior Vice President of Operations, Michael Peterson-Vice President of Corporate Development, Ted Kroll-Vice President of Marketing, Kristen Scribner-Director of Digital Design, Heather Flatley-Marketing Coordinator, Megan Fraedrich-Marketing Coordinator, Nina Zolt - Founder, Jill Josephson-Senior Counsel, and Alex Wang-CEO. Thank you for your time and commitment to ensure our success!*



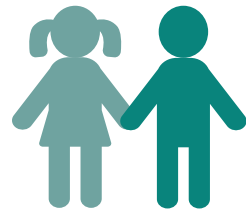
IMPACT

Overall Impact



24

YEARS OF RAISING ACHIEVEMENT



63,000+

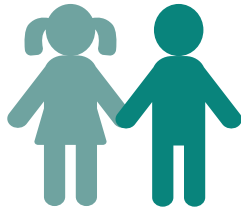
STUDENTS MENTORED



880,744

LETTERS EXCHANGED

2021–2022 Impact



1,136

STUDENTS MENTORED



17,119

LETTERS EXCHANGED

“

Every
Child
Needs a
Mentor

Mission:

Connect, support, and sustain 1:1 eMentoring relationships that empower every child to unlock their full personal and academic potential.

THE TOGETHER eMENTORING PROGRAMS

The Together eMentoring Programs are a successful example of how literacy and STEM instruction in the classroom with underserved students can focus on rich, intellectual reading and writing experiences that are meaningful and engaging. This blended community of Corporate Sponsors, Mentoring Organizations, Schools, and eMentors coupled with literacy and STEM topics makes learning authentic and transformational. The Together eMentoring programs provide interpersonal support and motivation through real-world connections and meaningful letter exchanges with eMentors. The bond between the student and the eMentor through many letter exchanges fosters deep learning in various content areas while innovatively addressing the educational needs of students.



95% of enrolled students experience their first mentoring experience within the Together eMentoring Program.

“ I ABSOLUTELY LOVE THIS PROGRAM!!! It was so awesome to be part of watching my students get excited to hear from their mentors. It is FANTASTIC that there are working adults willing to pour into the next generation.”

—teacher

“ For me, it wasn't necessarily one specific event. It was the overall experience. Getting to know my mentee, learning together, writing back and forth. It also helped me think about how I was communicating to her and as a result to others. Improving my overall communication style to adjust to my audience. Getting a new letter put a smile on my face. I was telling everyone about what a great experience it was and encouraging them to seek out ways they could volunteer.”

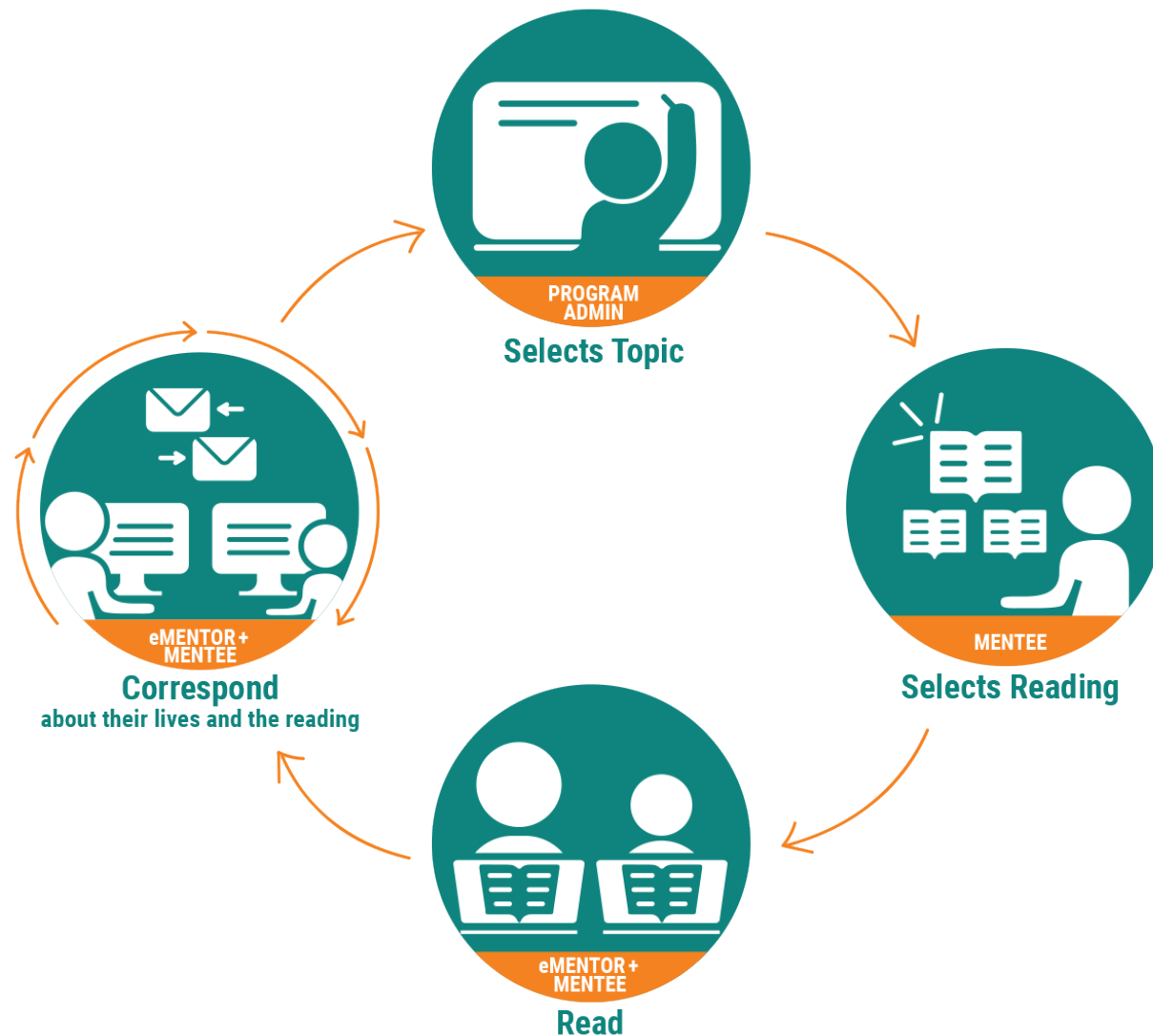
—eMentor

“ My eMentor made me feel comfortable around her, and she always puts a smile upon my face. I love learning together. We share our ideas and have a lot of fun learning and teaching with each other. We also have a close relationship. We trust each other, trust that what we say to each other is true. Being with my eMentor was AWESOME! Words cannot describe how happy I was with my eMentor!”

—student

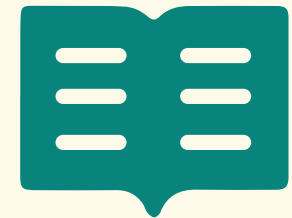
THE ENGAGEMENT CYCLE: THE HEART OF TOGETHER eMENTORING

Each mentee/eMentor pair exchanges online letters about the reading and how it connects to their lives and the world around them. The platform provides guidance and topic-related prompts to support the letter writing for both mentors and mentees. All correspondence is moderated for safety by the program administrator.



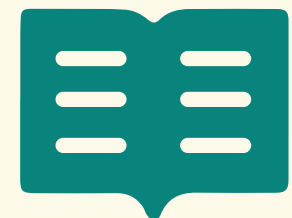
The number of articles read by eMentor/student matches.

Overall Impact



313,980
ARTICLES READ

2021–2022 Impact



5,680
ARTICLES READ

SURVEY SAYS: TRYENGINEERING TOGETHER REPORT

Mentoring is critical in helping youth explore and develop their interest in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Sponsored classrooms select units based on various STEM topics, read articles about that topic, engage in classroom discussions, participate in STEM-based hands-on activities, and exchange digital letters with their eMentors. The TryEngineering Together program incorporates ways to help mentees and eMentors build meaningful relationships that strengthen critical thinking skills, innovation, and curiosity while developing career awareness with STEM learning.



Teachers

100%

SATISFIED with the program and **WOULD RECOMMEND** to another teacher.

100%

Participated to **CONNECT STUDENTS TO STEM PROFESSIONALS**.

98%

Student's **CURIOSITY AND INTEREST IN STEM INCREASED**.

98%

Students' **SKILLS AND ENGAGEMENT INCREASED** after working with an eMentor.



eMentors

98%

SATISFIED with the program and **WOULD RECOMMEND** to another eMentor.

92%

Believe they **MEANINGFULLY SUPPORTED STUDENT GAINS** in STEM knowledge.

93%

Engaged frequently in **STEM CAREER DISCUSSION** with their student.



Students

98%

eMentor makes them **FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES**.

98%

Feel their **eMENTOR CARES** about them.

97%

eMentor **HELPS THEM LEARN MORE** about STEM.

96%

FEEL BETTER about learning STEM.

SURVEY SAYS: CRICKETTOGETHER / VIRTUAL MENTORING PORTAL REPORT



The CricketTogether programs provide teachers, school administrators, corporations, and their employees a meaningful way to leverage the power of relationships to positively change the lives of children and their communities. Focusing on the development of core literacy skills, science, social studies, and social-emotional skill development within the context of an authentic writing correspondence promotes critical thinking. We welcome nonprofit mentoring organizations to utilize our CricketTogether program through the Virtual Mentoring Portal, through our partnership with MENTOR.



Teachers

100%

SATISFIED with the program and **WOULD RECOMMEND** to another teacher.

100%

Students **ENJOYED** receiving letters and connecting with eMentors.

98%

Students' **SKILLS AND ENGAGEMENT INCREASED** after working with an eMentor.

100%

WANT to participate next year.



eMentors

99%

SATISFIED with the program and **WOULD RECOMMEND** to another eMentor.

99%

Program **PROVIDED SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT** for students.

98%

Program **HELPED** the student develop critical **THINKING SKILLS**.



Students

99%

eMentor makes them **FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES**.

99%

Feel their **eMENTOR CARES** about them.

95%

eMentor **HELPS THEM LEARN**.

96%

eMentor makes them feel like **THEY CAN SUCCEED**.

2021–2022 TOGETHER eMENTORING PROGRAM UPDATES

The Together programs are committed to releasing new content every academic year designed to evoke critical thinking and engage students and eMentors in thoughtful written conversations.



CYBERSECURITY

Discover the importance of cybersecurity and how we can best protect ourselves and our information in the online world.



STEM THROUGH HOBBIES

Hobbies, such as sports, art, music, and building, help us learn many important skills. Some hobbies can lead to exciting STEM careers!



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Energy sources like gas and coal won't last forever. Read about how the sun, wind, and plants can be used as cleaner, renewable energy.



TELESCOPES

Look up. Have you ever wondered what is out there among the stars? Learn about innovations in telescopes and what secrets of the universe they can reveal.



ELECTRICITY

Look around. How many electrical outlets do you see? What is plugged in to them? Our lives depend on electricity! In this unit, you'll find out where electricity comes from and how it gets to your devices.



CLEAN WATER FOR A THIRSTY PLANET

Explore how engineers are solving the world's water crisis for the billions of people who need safe and clean water to drink.



MANAGING MY FEARS

Everyone gets scared sometimes. Reading about what scares people can help you learn to manage and overcome your fears.



BUILDING ON MY STRENGTHS

Strengths and limitations—we all have them. Learning to recognize your strengths will help you to develop those strengths throughout your life. Read about how others have built on the qualities that make them strong and unique.

CRICKET RECOGNITION

Named **Support Champion** of the National Partnership for Student Success

The Together team is honored to be named a **Supporting Champion** of the **National Partnership for Student Success** (NPSS). The Biden-Harris administration and leading partner organizations launched the NPSS to provide students with the goal of recruiting an additional 250,000 tutors and mentors over the next three years. On the heels of widespread challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NPSS aims to help expand high-impact tutoring, mentoring, and other evidence-based support programs. The CricketTogether team is proud to play a role in the NPSS's efforts to provide the supports that help our students thrive. Thank you for being part of the effort to support learning and prepare students for future success. Mentoring is proven, time-tested, and is a critical part of this initiative to drive student success. Many thanks to our corporate sponsors, schools, and organizations academic and youth for investing in our future generation.



Over the course of this grant cycle, adult and youth program participants shared over 550 letters back and forth across the CricketTogether Virtual Mentoring Portal. At the end of the year, all youth participants reported that 100% youth agreed with the statement 'My eMentor makes me feel like I can succeed'. We concluded the year with an ice cream party at which the youth met their mentors face to face (or virtually for mentors unable to attend). This event was a lot of fun for kids and adults alike as they finally met the person to whom they had been writing all year."

— MILTON YOUTH MENTORING
Amy Spector, Report to
Vermont Children's Trust
Foundation

I'M A CHAMPION OF THE



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR *Student Success*

partnershipstudentsuccess.org

“

So many of my students mention at the end of CricketTogether, that they didn't realize they were such good writers until they participated in the Cricket program.”

—teacher

Writing

“

Seeing an improvement in the child's writing skill over the year was very rewarding. Kudos to the teachers and thrilled to be a small part of that journey!”

—eMentor

“

The program made me feel happy because it helped me to be inspired to write longer paragraphs and to be able to talk scientifically to my peers.”

—student

“

I really like the articles and the differentiation; it gives students the opportunity to choose something they are interested and comfortable reading.”

—teacher

“

My eMentor taught me a lot of things I missed when we were reading a story together. When he told me the things I missed, I could express more about the book and talk about it more or write about it more.”

—student

“

Literacy is so important to me; it is the gateway to so many things, it opens so many doors. CricketTogether gives students and their mentors a chance to explore and learn together. I was so impressed by how far my student came by the end of the program and her thoughtful analysis of the stories we read.”

—eMentor

Literacy

STEM

“

It is a valuable program that ties students to experts in the field of STEM. Concepts are easier to understand when experts are able to explain them more fully.”

—teacher

“

I think students are getting wide exposure to different STEM topics and careers, through the labs and articles. I also think the mentorship program is good for giving students an additional resource to ask questions and learn about STEM subjects and careers.”

—eMentor

“

TryEngineering Together made me more interested about everyday topics because it allowed me the knowledge of how things work, but in a scientific way. It helped me to understand topics like how the sun and solar panels work, machines, and even engineering projects that I've done in school. Personally, I find it positive and something to look forward to in science class.”

—student

“

CricketTogether allowed my students to not only discuss topics related to the articles, but also discuss their everyday life. I have several students who really enjoyed being able to share their thoughts and opinions with someone who is outside of their usual circle and who they felt were interested in what they had to say. This program gave every student the opportunity to have one-on-one attention in a positive way.”

—teacher

“

When my student shared with me his fear of the testing, I knew then that he trusted me, and was actually conversing with me.”

—eMentor

“

My eMentor made me feel happy, persistent, and open-minded. They helped me by sharing ideas, being supportive, and being kind!”

—student

Social and
Emotional

Equity

“

This program gave every student and equal opportunity to have one-on-one attention in a positive way.”

—teacher

“

I hope to promote development and equal opportunities for students to know that they can do whatever they want in life”

—eMentor

“

TryEngineering Together made me feel like good that I would have someone to talk to who understands technology and engineering. This makes for a good way to ask someone if my idea to solve a problem would work. This helped us all be successful.”

—student

TOGETHER eMENTORING CHAMPION PARTNERS

A special thank you to our partners!

