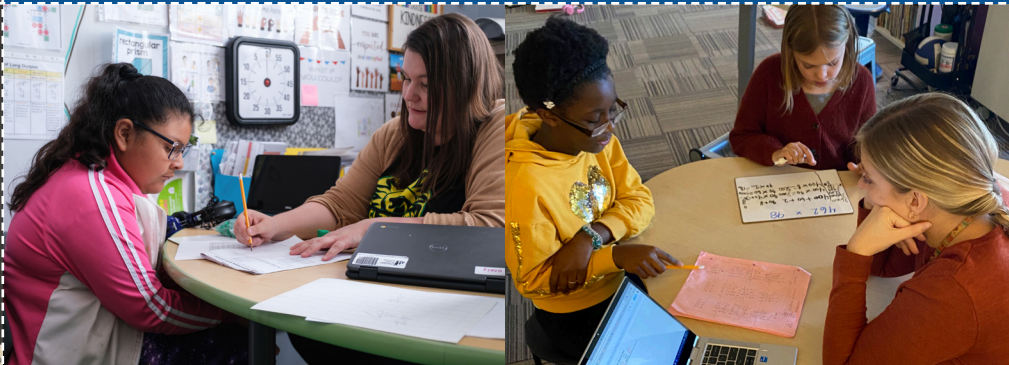


Modern Classrooms  
Project



# 2023 Impact Report



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# A Message From Our Founders

February 29, 2024

Dear Modern Classrooms Community,

In 2023, the Modern Classrooms Project turned five years old. In our first year, we trained eight educators at Eastern High School in Washington, DC; last year, we trained over 5,000 educators, from more than 2,000 schools, in 50 states and 49 countries. In other words, this was our most impactful year yet.

What allows our small team to empower so many educators - and their students - worldwide?

- **The hard work of the educators who implement our model, day in and day out.** Our programs make an impact only because working educators take what they learn and use it to meet their students' needs. These educators demonstrate every day why Modern Classrooms matter - and inspire their peers and colleagues to join our movement.
- **The commitment of our Expert Mentors.** Last year, over 300 of our Distinguished Modern Classroom Educators helped staff our Virtual Mentorship Program as Expert Mentors, providing the one-on-one coaching and support that teachers need to learn and adapt our model successfully. Their classroom-tested expertise is what makes our training truly effective.
- **Support from advocates, advisors, and donors like you.** As a rapidly scaling non-profit organization, we rely on our supporters to spread the word about our work, provide funding for our newest initiatives, and advance our mission and vision. Wherever you are, and however you've contributed, we're grateful to you. We couldn't do this work without our community.

We are proud of what we have accomplished over the last five years. But we know that the need for our work is greater than ever before. The teaching profession continues to get more challenging as educators struggle to meet a growing diversity of academic and social-emotional needs in their students. The path forward is to equip educators with new methods of teaching that both transform the student experience and make the teaching profession more sustainable. That is what we are committed to doing at the Modern Classrooms Project.

Sincerely,

**Kareem Farah**

Co-Founder and CEO

Kareem Farah

**Robert Barnett**

Co-Founder and Chief Program Officer

Robert Barnett



At the Modern Classrooms Project,  
**we help educators respond to  
every student's needs.**

# Our Instructional Model

There is no “one size fits all” approach to teaching. As educators, we know that every learner deserves a classroom environment where their individual needs are met. The Modern Classrooms Project is a nonprofit made up of former teachers who developed a new method of delivering instruction. We provide classroom-tested tools that help educators re-engineer their classroom to a student-centered environment. **In a Modern Classroom, you'll see:**

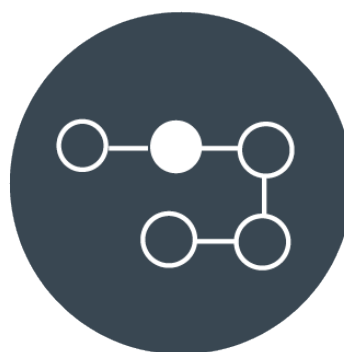
## Blended Instruction

Students access content through teacher-created videos.



## Self-Paced Structures

Students control the pace of their own learning.



## Mastery-Based Learning

Students progress from one lesson to the next when they demonstrate mastery.



[See our innovative instructional model in action here.](#)

## Scale of Impact

We are more than an instructional model — we lead a global educational movement. To scale our solution, we train educators through both our Free Course and Virtual Mentorship Program. **As of December 2023, we've trained:**

60,000+

Educators through our  
**Free Online Course**

11,700+

Educators through our  
**Virtual Mentorship Program**

Participants in our training represent a range of educators who want to create transformational change in their schools and districts. **As of December 2023, we have reached educators in:**

4,000+  
Schools

1,300+  
Districts



## Featured Partnerships

We build partnerships with schools and districts to empower educators to implement our model and support leaders as they nurture our innovative instructional approach. **This year, we are excited to feature two partners who have gone above and beyond:**

### St. Cloud Area School District

Educators in the St. Cloud Area School District have embraced the Modern Classrooms model, creating a vibrant, student-centered learning environment! Their commitment to personalized learning and self-pacing ensures that each student's educational journey is engaging and uniquely their own. **To date, our St. Cloud community includes:**

**40+**  
Educators

**11+**  
Schools

For more on our impact in St. Cloud,

[Watch the Video](#)



### Wichita Public Schools

In 2023, Modern Classrooms selected Wichita Public Schools, one of our district partners, to participate in our Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant Program as a pilot cohort. This five-year study focuses on elevating middle-school math education in Title I schools and is conducted in partnership with the American Institutes for Research. It highlights a commitment to applying data-driven insights and innovative methodologies to improve academic outcomes using our model.

In addition to becoming a leading district partner in this initiative, Wichita Public Schools has continuously empowered educators to build student-centered classrooms through our training programs, playing a crucial role in shaping the future of education.

**To date, our community in Wichita includes:**

**390+**  
Educators

**30+**  
Schools



# Building Teacher Leadership Pathways

We are expanding the teaching profession by creating leadership pathways where educators can hone their craft and advance their careers, all while staying in the classroom. As effective implementers of our model, educators can pursue two leadership pathways:

**Distinguished Modern Classroom Educators (DMCEs):** Implement blended, self-paced, mastery-based instruction in their own communities. We review comprehensive portfolios of their work to ensure that they are truly using our model to meet every learner's needs.

**Expert Mentors:** Provide one-on-one coaching and support through our Virtual Mentorship Program. We train them in research-backed strategies for effective coaching and feedback, and pay them \$50-60 per hour for their work.

Our community of credentialed educators continues to grow worldwide - reaching more classrooms than ever. **As of December 2023, we empowered:**

**734** + **325**  
**DMCEs**                      **Expert Mentors**

According to our recent survey, **99% of Expert Mentors say they would like to continue to mentor teachers with the Modern Classrooms Project for years to come.**



## What Our Teacher Leaders Are Saying



**“It has transformed me as a teacher.** I feel grateful I found this framework and the amazing teachers who belong to this community...It can be daunting to think about the time it takes to prepare for this model but it is extremely rewarding to implement it.”

Marlene Tapia Garcia, DMCE & Elementary Teacher, Talcott Elementary School

## Impact on Teachers

Through our training programs, we help educators meet their students' needs more effectively while simultaneously ensuring the teaching profession is sustainable. Educators who implement our model report significant changes in their perception of the profession and intend to implement our approach for the duration of their teaching career. A sample of 332 Modern Classrooms educators from our Annual MCP Teacher Survey 2023 report that:



As a result of my experience with Modern Classrooms...

**81%** I enjoy teaching more.

**85%** I intend to continue teaching for many more years to come.

**90%** I will continue to adopt MCP practices for the rest of my career.

## What Our Teachers Are Saying



“Before implementing the modern classroom, I had considered giving up the profession. It has completely changed my teaching practice. **I now feel empowered and excited to go into school every day and to meet the needs of my diverse learners.**”

Katie Fatiga, Expert Mentor & Social Studies Teacher, Battlefield Middle School



“In just one year of implementation, I have had increased grades, expanded content coverage, fewer behavioral issues, more students request to be in my classes, and many of my colleagues seeking to follow my lead. **I feel like a leader in my school and a teacher who really knows her students. Never before have I had better relationships with my students or felt so confident in my assessment of their skills.**”

Katherine Pielak, Expert Mentor & English Teacher, Moline High School



“It saves so much time once the system is in place. **I am experiencing meaningful interactions and productive conversations with my students.** The rhythms of learning are fluid with minimal disruptions, even if I need a sub for a day.”

Joyce Lourenco Pereira, Expert Mentor & High School Teacher, Korea International School



# Impact on Students

Our model ensures that students are engaged in a more personalized learning experience. As a result, educators are able to spend more one-on-one and small-group time with students, leading to stronger relationships and improved academic outcomes. A sample of 332 Modern Classrooms educators from our Annual MCP Teacher Survey 2023 report that:

## As a result of my experience with Modern Classrooms...

**80%**

I am able to work closely with each of my students during class.

**90%**

I am able to effectively serve students at all levels of understanding.

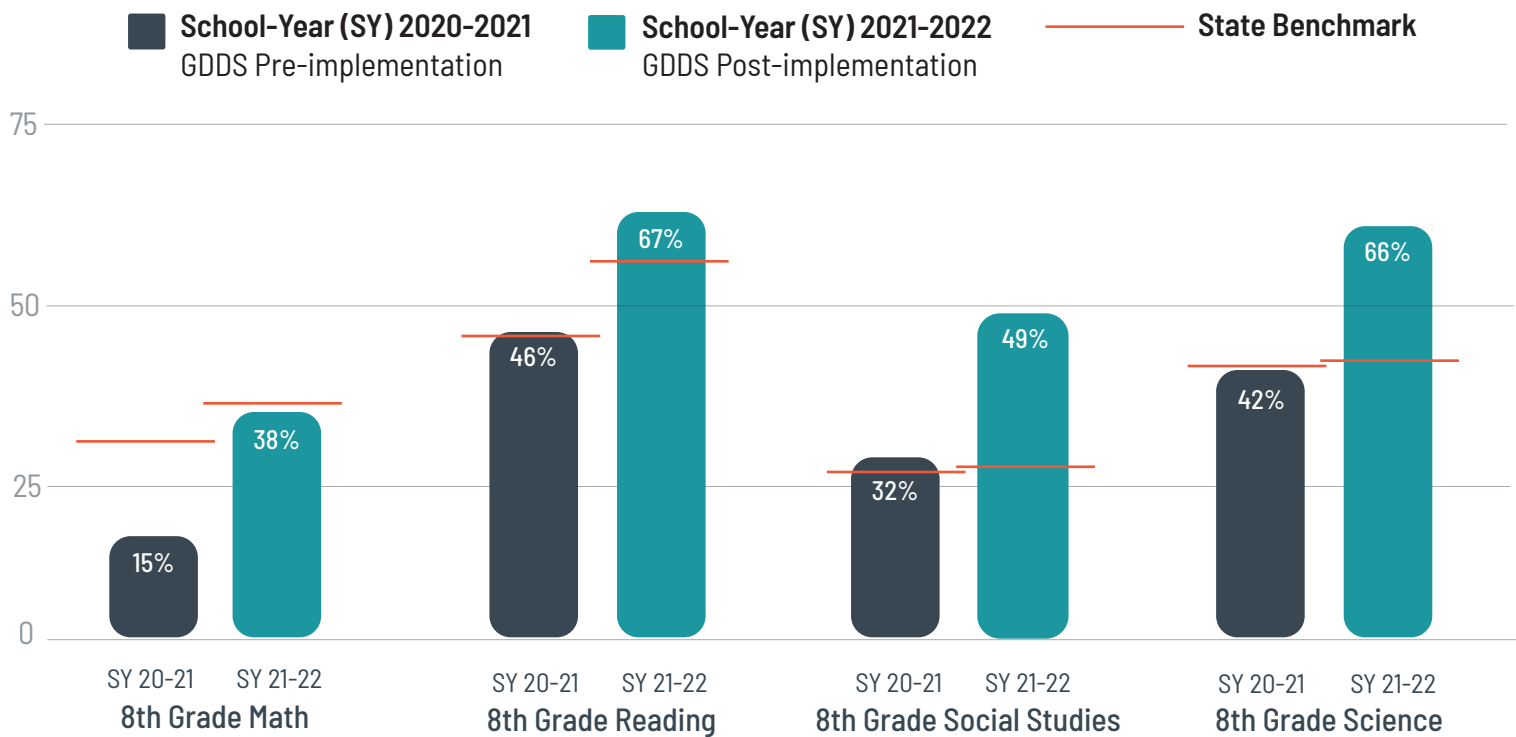
**98%**

I have good personal relationships with my students.

## Student Outcomes Study

Game Development Design School (GDDS), a 6th-12th grade school in the Burleson Independent School District, adopted our model across all grades and subjects starting the 2021-22 school year. After a year, the school made significant gains in 8th-grade academic proficiency on the state STAAR assessment. Below, you can see how GDDS students performed compared to all Texas schools.

### Student Achievement Growth in STAAR • % of students meeting STAAR proficiency



This research makes a compelling case for improved student learning outcomes. That's why we pursued a competitive Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant through the Department of Education. In partnership with the American Institute of Research, this grant will allow us to conduct a 5-year randomized control trial study examining our impact on students' math achievement.

# Our Newest Initiative: Introducing MCP University



For many years, educators have completed our Free Course or Virtual Mentorship Program and asked: “What’s next? How do I continue to grow as a Modern Classroom educator?”

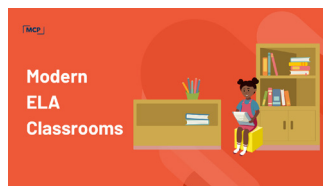
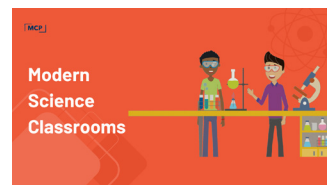
This year, we have an answer. In the fall, we launched MCP University (MCPU): a collection of educator-created courses that go deeper into core aspects of Modern Classroom instruction. Our initial 11 courses, now available to every educator in our network, include:

- **Content-Specific Guidance:** Dedicated resources, exemplars, & tips for ELA, math, science, and social studies teachers.
- **Deep Dives:** Advanced guidance on collaboration, small-group instruction, and learner motivation.
- **New Tools:** Research-based practices in inquiry- and project-based instruction, plus guidance on supporting multilingual learners and building learners’ study skills.

These courses provide a great opportunity for our real experts - our educators! - to share what they’ve learned with the world. In 2024, we’ll continue adding courses on topics such as teacher wellness, special education, and learner variability. Additionally, we will be rolling out premium versions of these courses, which include on-demand coaching and feedback, to educators in some of our partner districts and regions. **We hope to see you in MCPU!**

## MCP University Current Course Offerings

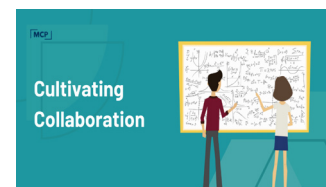
### Content-Specific Guidance



### Expand Your Toolkit



### Theory into Practice



# Our 2024-25 Research Agenda



We are committed to the continuous evaluation of our impacts on students, teachers, and schools nationwide. In the coming year, our research and evaluation efforts will focus on three primary goals.

**Goal 1:** Understand Student Achievement in Title I Middle School Math Classrooms.

**Planned Efforts:** In partnership with the American Institutes for Research, MCP has received a 5-year Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE). In 2024, we will:

- Complete our first-year pilot study in spring 2024, which serves two districts and nine teachers.
- Launch a randomized control trial with educators in several partner districts.

**Goal 2:** Understand the Experiences of Students with Learning Differences.

**Planned Efforts:** In partnership with the Oak Foundation, MCP is providing training scholarships to 250 educators who serve students with learning differences. In 2024, we will:

- Develop a suite of supports to ensure that trained teachers can grow in their implementation beyond their first-year training.
- Develop a suite of products and resources that help educators leverage our model to meet the needs of students with learning differences.

**Goal 3:** Understand the Combined Impact of MCP and High-Quality Curricular Resources.

**Planned Efforts:** In 2024, we will partner with educators to develop, refine, and pilot aligning the MCP approach with existing high-quality math curriculums. Throughout the year, we will evaluate the impact by:

- Conducting rapid iterative testing and evaluation (RITE) of the curriculum-aligned resources and their ease of use for teachers in classrooms.
- Investigating whether providing curriculum-aligned MCP resources in math leads to improved student outcomes.



For questions regarding this report or the 2024-2025 research and evaluation agenda, please reach out to the Modern Classrooms Research Team at [research@modernclassrooms.org](mailto:research@modernclassrooms.org).