

# WORKPLACE MENTORING

Started in 1999, Workplace Mentoring is a year-long literacy mentorship program for 4th-8th grade Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students. Once a week after school, students are transported to a corporate office to meet one-on-one with their mentor for shared reading and homework support.



## THE NEED

- According to Advance Illinois' report "The State We're In 2022," only 28% of CPS 4th graders are proficient in reading.
- 4th grade reading proficiency is an important indicator of educational development. By the time a child reaches 4th grade, they are expected to be able to read in order to learn. If a child is not proficient in reading by this age, it becomes harder for them to succeed academically.
- New research emphasizes the need for resources and programs that support students' emotional well-being, which plays a critical role in their academic success.

## HOW WITS MEETS THE NEED

- Shared reading allows readers to successfully take on more challenging texts together. Shared reading also helps students traverse whatever reading terrain lies ahead with experience, confidence, and joy.
- 84% of students agreed that participating in WITS made them want to read for fun more often. Reading for fun leads to more reading engagement and better reading comprehension.
- 100% of our partner teachers are satisfied with student participation in WITS. Teachers value that our programs promote a love of reading and support social-emotional development in students.

## THE WITS MISSION

WITS believes that literacy is the foundation on which all other learning develops. Our mission is to empower Chicago elementary students to discover themselves through reading while developing foundational literacy skills. We do this by creating community through literacy-based mentorship, enabling teachers to build diverse classroom libraries, and promoting book ownership at home.

For more information email WITS Program Director, Ellen Werner, [ellen@witschicago.org](mailto:ellen@witschicago.org).