

IMPACT REPORT 2023



TO OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

We spent FY2023 examining RSE's impact and **questioning our strategy centered around K-12** students. After 7+ years of working with K-12 students, including 3+ years as a non-profit, our strategy to partner with K-12 educational organizations to address foundational math gaps **has not yielded the results** we were hoping for.

In pilots, **teachers loved** the focus on math foundations and appreciated RSE's ease of use and depth of actionable analysis. The student outcomes were positive and encouraging. However, **buy-in from administrators** in schools and after-school organizations did not materialize. They are **unwilling to invest** in programs **primarily focused** on improving foundational math skills of **lowest performing students** preferring instead, short-term homework help or self-paced online programs. Without administration buy-in, teachers and RSE, however enthusiastic, cannot prevail.

While individual (underserved) student success is publicized, celebrated and held up as the poster-child, there is **no administration accountability** metric we observe at the educational organizations to measure **sustained improvement of lower performing students**.

Faced with these adoption barriers we decided to **turn our focus** from K-12 towards **community college** students who often face **even wider gaps** in their **math understanding** and struggle to progress. In talking with **community college administrators and faculty**, we were bolstered by their supportive attitude towards student challenges and an **openness to new approaches**.

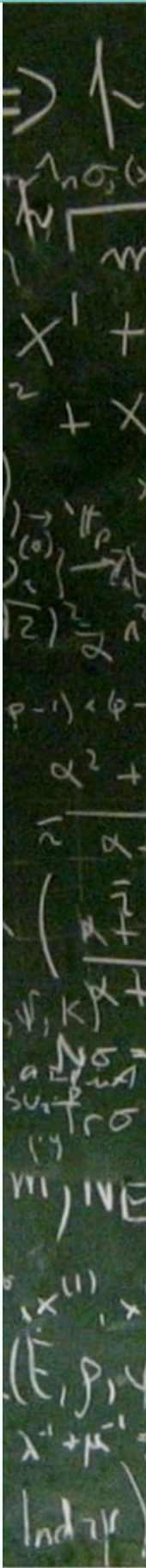
Working with a consulting company, we **evaluated market opportunities** in this space. Their research **confirmed the need** and indicated that the community college sector was open to new programs.

We partnered with **Growth Sector**, a national non-profit, to prepare and support community college students for math readiness. Our pilot summer programs yielded excellent results and reviews and we are **exploring a closer partnership**.

The year was overshadowed by questions of our future direction. We opted not to solicit donations or apply for grants until we had a coherent story we could stand behind. We continued to serve our existing clients while exploring the possibilities with community college partners.

We are **optimistic about the new direction** and hope that we will be able to count on your support going forward.

With gratitude,
Maya & Asavari



ABOUT READY.SET.EXCEL



Empowering students to succeed

We envision a world where there is math equity in education: all students have the math skills and self-confidence needed to consider a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) career or to pursue any life path they may choose.

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower every student to become confident and successful in math and science.

- Providing diagnostic services to accurately identify gaps in a student's foundational math skills.
- Supporting educators with real-time data and resources to effectively address student needs and improve math confidence.

Core Beliefs

- We believe that math is an essential life skill.
- We believe that all students can learn math.
- We believe in a nonjudgmental and affirming approach to learning.
- We believe partnering with educators is essential to the success of our work.
- We believe in diversity in STEM classrooms and workplaces.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



GROWTH SECTOR

Preparing Community College Students for STEM Careers

Growth Sector's **STEM Core** program supports and prepares **community college students** across the nation for careers in **STEM pathways**. The program's accelerated **math-based curriculum** coupled with wraparound support enable students to persist and succeed in community college efficiently completing transfer requirements to 4-year colleges.

Growth Sector has identified that **more than 80% of students** arrive at community colleges **underprepared in math**. This often results in students struggling to keep pace in math and science classes. **Unaddressed math learning needs** from high school holds them back from being able to fulfil college math requirements.

Ready.Set.Excel partnered with Growth Sector in their **Summer Math Bridge** program at two California community colleges. The 3-week in-person program focused on **College Math Foundations** - to review and refresh math basics for incoming Growth Sector scholars. Instructors from each college taught the program.

RSE assessed the students on **high-school arithmetic and algebra** foundations to evaluate **preparedness for college math**. Our proprietary math diagnostics established a baseline and identified specific foundational math concepts needing additional attention. Using RSE's pre-assessment reports detailing each cohorts' strengths and needs, the instructors focused on **bridging gaps in the students' understanding**. RSE's reports also identified outliers who received **individual attention**.

RSE's post-assessment **measured student progress** at the end of the program. Individualized student reports with customized learning plans and self-paced study resources were shared with each student.

Encouraged by the positive results, **RSE and Growth Sector are discussing a closer partnership**.

"The students were eager to get their assessment results. They appreciated having a measure of their competencies and seeing how their work in the class had an immediate impact on their scores."

"The topics in section 3 were what we dove deepest on in the class. That's awesome that the assessment shows how much it helped them!"

"The ones who improved the most were the ones who worked the hardest. Glad to see there was improvement for just about everyone."

- Feedback from program instructors

98%
students improved
Pre to Post scores
for students - demonstrated
improved mastery of fundamental
concepts and skills

>100%
score improvement
Multiple Topics
Radicals
Functions & Graphs
System of Equations

~40
instruction hours
Hands-on projects
in-person instruction accompanied as
well as directed self-learning

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Tel HI Neighborhood Center serves people in the Telegraph Hill neighborhood in San Francisco meeting the needs of a culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse community. Its mission is to enhance the lives of the people in its community.

Continuing our successful partnership with Tel Hi we piloted an **after-school Middle School Readiness** program in addition to Summer Math. Starting in the spring semester, 4th and 5th graders met in-person once a week with an instructor to **review and reinforce math foundations**. RSE's diagnostic established a baseline of the cohort's strengths and needs to inform the instructor of topics requiring focus. Outliers received differentiated instruction with 1-1 time with the teacher. Student progress seen in the post-assessments were significant and they reported feeling more confident about their math abilities. Students also noted that the after-school program **positively impacted their school work**.

" Helped me with reviewing the math i haven't done in a long time". "

"It helped me by reviewing my weakspots in math and making it easier to do math in school"

"I was good at some things but i was the worst at PEMDAS"

- Student feedback

Summer Math included rising 4th, 5th and 6th graders. By including **games and hands-on activities**, students experienced a real-world connection to math. The range of math mastery across the three grades was considerable and challenging for the teacher. RSE's diagnostic established **baselines for each grade-level and set desired targets in math foundations**. It enabled the instructor to **group the students** according to their needs in each critical math topic. **Fractions** and **Decimals** were challenging topics for all three grades. At the end of the program, students in all the grades showed **significant improvement** in their understanding of these areas.

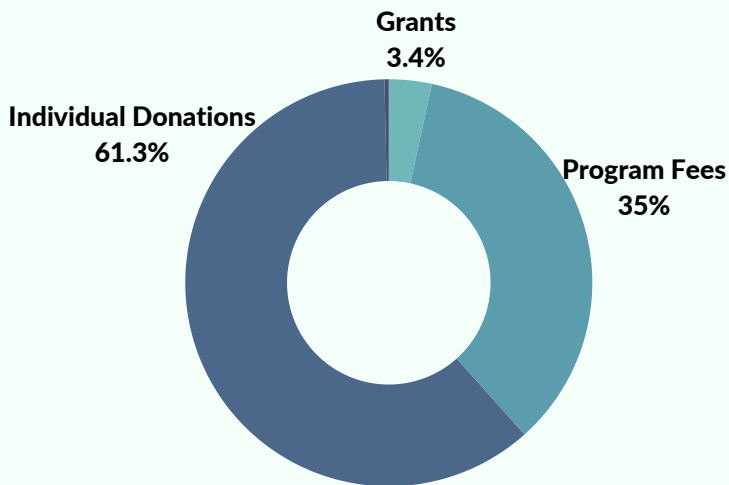


FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUE

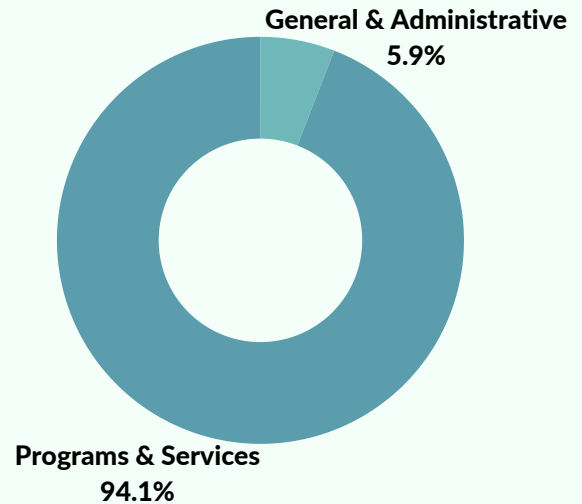
FYE June 30, 2023

\$73,438



OPERATING EXPENSES

\$67,328



We did not launch any donation campaigns or apply for grants during this fiscal year while we were reassessing our strategy and future directions. The founders opted to forgo salary for the year.

OUR SUPPORTERS

First Tech[®]
federal credit union

The Rogers Family Foundation

We are particularly indebted to Mindy Rogers for encouraging and supporting us to work with a consulting company to examine and evaluate alternative strategies. She has been our mainstay from the start and we are fortunate and grateful.