

NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL INITIATIVE

517 Boston Post Road, Suite 171
Sudbury, MA 01776

July 1, 2020

Dear Education Leader:

We are writing to inquire about your potential interest in working together to offer a state-of-the-art remote learning experience this fall and beyond.

We think it may be helpful at the outset to say a few words about who we are, our core values, and how we might work together:

1. We are not a “vendor” but rather a not-for-profit, philanthropically funded entity.
2. In response to the challenges presented by Covid-19, this spring we set out to design, offer, and implement a highly innovative summer program in collaboration with local education partners across the country.
3. Building on that foundation, we are now expanding and modifying the program for districts and networks that are looking for a remote educational solution for at least some of their students this fall.
4. A short eight weeks after launch, the summer program today is successfully serving over 10,000 students with a unique summer experience. Award-winning Mentor Teachers, chosen from around the country for their record of outstanding academic results, work in close partnership with peer teachers in every school to provide exceptionally engaging and effective lessons. Delivered in vibrant high definition, reading and math lessons that promote curiosity and intellectual excitement are combined with a diverse array of enrichment activities, from virtual science labs to movement and dance, from coding classes to world languages.
5. As current and former education leaders, we appreciate the immense dilemma educators face in planning for the 2020-21 school year in an environment of significant uncertainty. *What does seem all but certain, however, is that districts and school networks need to be fully prepared to remotely educate at least some students some of the time*—whether due to distancing restrictions, revised schedules, the desire to honor the preference of some parents and educators to postpone returning to traditional school buildings, state-imposed mandates, the unique health vulnerabilities of some stakeholders, or the need to serve some children who are ill or who have been identified by public health authorities as having been recently exposed to someone who is.
6. We are not a “virtual school,” but rather a solution that enables districts and networks to offer “public school at home”—retaining students on their rosters with associated funding and preserving their appropriate status as “orchestra director” of all educational activities, whether traditionally or remotely delivered.
7. Given the many uncertainties that exist, any solution needs to be expandable and modifiable to fit needs as they arise. For example, a successful approach must be able to add additional curricular offerings if the time required for virtual instruction in any given case is extended. Similarly, it must have the ability to layer in a rich array of student directed activities, live small group instruction and high quality one-to-many classes. Our

solution enables this kind of flexibility, permitting education leaders to make “real time” adjustments as the public health landscape evolves and clarifies.

8. Finally, we deeply appreciate that school is about a good deal more than mastering the gateway skills of reading and math. Our program is specifically designed to build community, foster curiosity, support collaboration, and create an environment for teachers and students to interact at the personal level that is so often a critical element of student development and growth.

For more information about our summer program, please visit schoolsreimagined.org. Professional learning around teaching within this new medium is especially critical. Organized and led by some of the most successful educators in the country, our team has been relentlessly focused on delivering engaging instruction remotely, and supporting our teachers to master this new craft. Our program offers not only strong practices around how to structure remote learning time, but also world class professional learning opportunities that enable your teachers to develop the skills needed to succeed in this environment.

We genuinely appreciate the immensity of the pressure you are under to provide quality instruction to all of your students this Fall in an educational environment that defies clear definition or prediction. We believe that we can play an important supporting role in helping you design and implement an effective virtual solution to meet whatever contingencies that may eventually arise.

Our goal is to identify a limited number of partners with whom to collaborate in the design and launch of the program this Fall. If you would like to be one of them – or simply would like to learn more about the program—please write us at info@schoolsreimagined.org.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Chris Cerf, Ian Rowe, Steven F. Wilson
Co-founders
THE NATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL INITIATIVE
schoolsreimagined.org