

2023-24



Annual Report

CENTER FOR INSPIRED TEACHING

*Creating
Classrooms
Where Everyone
Thrives*

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Letter from our President and Founder, Aleta Margolis

At [Center for Inspired Teaching](#), we fueled curiosity and critical thinking for teachers and students, infused joy into teaching and learning, and **created classroom environments where everyone can thrive.**

Here are some program highlights:

- The [Teaching with Improvisation Fellowship](#), with support from the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, kicked off with an intensive hands-on, whole-body Institute. 32 teachers from Washington, DC schools—[plus one from Ukraine](#)—were selected from a record number of applicants to begin a year of professional learning, growth, and joy. These Fellows joined teachers from last year's cohort in bringing Inspired Teaching to hundreds of teachers in dozens of schools across DC.
- Thousands of educators in DC and beyond connected with the [Inspired Teaching Approach](#) through [school and district partnerships](#); our always-growing, always-accessible [library of digital resources](#); twice-monthly [professional development Institutes](#); weekly [Hooray For Monday](#) publication and podcast; and contributed articles in [leading education magazines](#).
- Students from 21 high schools in Washington, DC and from schools across the country expanded their empathy and strengthened their communication and critical thinking skills during monthly [Speak Truth](#) sessions—vital lessons ahead of the 2024 Election.
- We continued to innovate new ways for educators to access our resources. From our robust [online library of activities and strategies](#) to disseminating the [ABCDE of Learner Needs](#), Inspired Teaching tools are available for use in more classrooms than ever before.

Inspired Teaching will continue to offer opportunities for professional learning through play, guidance for navigating uncertainty, and community for all who wish to transform the education experience for teachers and students.

Aleta Margolis



Meeting the Needs of Teachers & Students

Our professional learning programming reached 10,000 teachers and school leaders, including **4,380 from the DMV.**

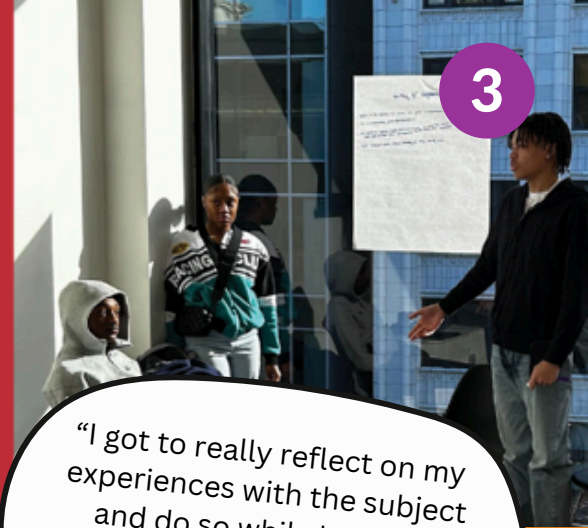
In the ongoing wake of the pandemic, students' social-emotional learning took center stage, as did the well-being of teachers. Inspired Teaching was ready to support educators in their efforts to build resilience and bolster school connectedness while meeting academic standards.

At the outset of the 2023-2024 school year, Inspired Teaching published the **ABCDE of Learner Needs** Guidebooks. These digital resources—including one for K-12 educators and one for early childhood educators—were a focal point of all Inspired Teaching programming.

From monthly **Inspired Teaching Institutes**—interactive and engaging professional development workshops—to the **Teaching with Improvisation Fellowship** and **our work within schools and districts**, we provided teachers with tools and strategies for identifying and addressing core learner needs. We also took care of the teachers themselves. Thousands of teachers in Washington, DC and around the world are equipped to create classrooms where everyone can thrive.

Inspired Teaching continued our partnership with Rappahannock County, VA Public Schools, training a team of preK-12 Teacher Leaders to build curiosity and critical thinking, and equipping them to spread the Inspired Teaching Approach district-wide.





Elevating Student Voice

Our youth programming reached **371 students in the DMV** this year.

“I got to really reflect on my experiences with the subject and do so while learning about, and from, other people’s perspectives.”
23-24 Speak Truth Student



Inspired Teaching’s youth programs –Speak Truth and Real World History–continued the work of showcasing what the [Inspired Teaching Approach](#) looks like in action.

Students participated in [Speak Truth](#) sessions online and in-person, at libraries and in classrooms around Washington, DC. [Students tackled an array of topics they identified as important and relevant to themselves](#), including school safety, consumerism, and prison reform.

[Real World History](#) students honed their skills as historians, *learning by doing*, as they connected with Washington, DC elders for oral histories of the Great Migration and interning at cultural institutions around the District, like the [Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage](#) and the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#).

Real World History student Makayla Napper hosted an Instagram “takeover” as an intern at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Speak Truth America

High school students from states across the country gathered for a [Speak Truth America](#) discussion at George Washington University. Attendees hailed from Montana, Missouri, Georgia, Washington, Idaho, North Dakota, California, and Oregon and they came together to discuss their reactions to the film [The First Step](#), which documents a rare story about cross-party coalition building.



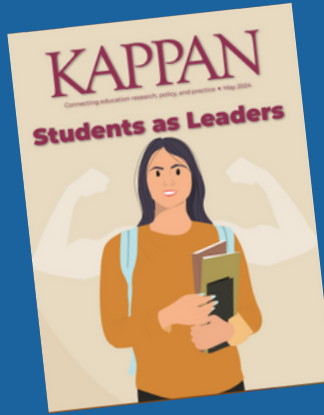


From the big questions inspired by SXSWEDU to Aleta's in-depth interview with preeminent activist and educator **Jonathan Kozol**, [Hooray For Monday](#) continued to offer actionable insights and concrete strategies for entering the classroom with enthusiasm and excitement each week.

Hooray For Monday reaches thousands of teachers, school leaders, parents, and education changemakers around the world. **Hitting inboxes and podcast platforms every week, 52 weeks a year**, this tool uplifts the voices of classroom teachers and education experts alike. **Hooray For Monday** is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to transform school for teachers and students.

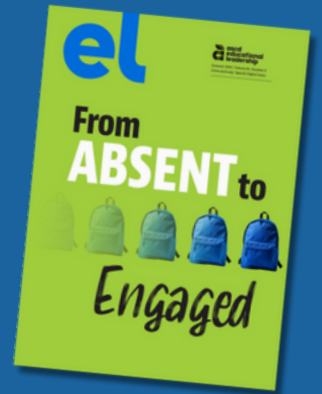


Spreading the Word



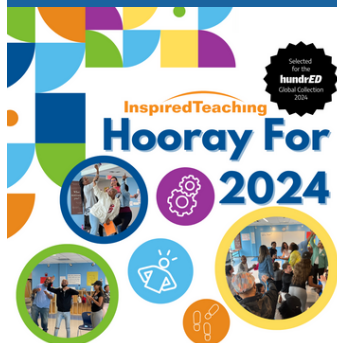
If we truly want to educate our children so they are able to collaborate with others, then we must teach them how to navigate conflict now. [Jenna and Aleta's article in KAPPAN magazine](#) offered concrete ways to teach students how.

As we face an ongoing absenteeism issue in schools, we should ask why students aren't showing up. [Aleta's article in EL Magazine](#) described how to make school engaging so students will want to be there.



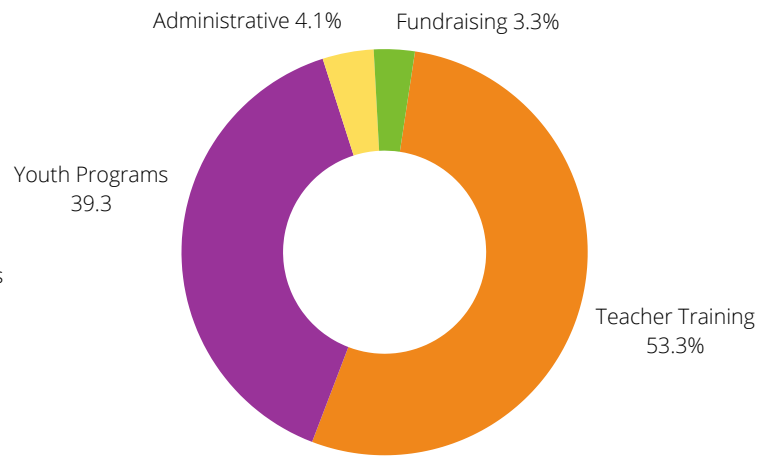
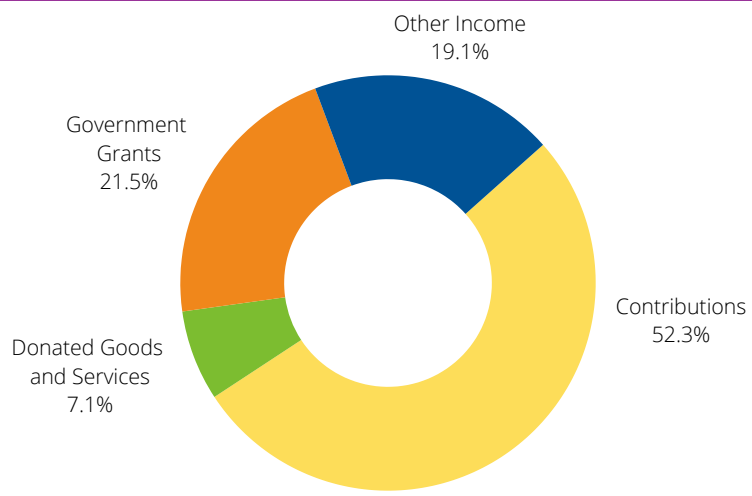
Aleta was featured on the [Creativists in Dialogue podcast](#) for an in-depth conversation on the founding and mission of Center for Inspired Teaching and what it means to be an Inspired Teacher.

Other new tools created in SY 23-24 include a Teacher Appreciation Week zine and an e-book with resources for using play to teach children collaboration, cooperation, and empathy.



FY 2023-24 Finances

\$539,640 EXPENDITURES



\$541,693 SUPPORT AND REVENUE

What these numbers made possible:

Teachers and school leaders in Washington, DC brought Inspired Teaching to **4,500+ students** at **more than 30 schools** around the District as part of the Teaching with Improvisation Fellowship.



370+ high school students learned strategies for leading conversations with respect, curiosity, and critical thought as part of Inspired Teaching's youth programming.

52 issues of Hooray For Monday and 52 episodes of the Hooray For Monday podcast, featuring exclusive resources, strategies, and interviews with educators, advocates, and changemakers.

More than 50,000 people around the world connected with Inspired Teaching resources and strategies through our social media platforms.

90 visits to Washington, DC classrooms, providing ongoing instructional coaching, supporting school-wide professional development, and strengthening community and connection.



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