LEARNING FROM TODAY.
ADAPTING FOR TOMORROW.
REIMAGINING EDUCATION TOGETHER.

2018 Annual Report
Dear Friends,

In 2002, World Savvy began as a dream put to paper in New York City: to reimagine a K–12 education system that could prepare young people to thrive as educated, engaged, global citizens. We knew that as our country became more diverse, the global economy became more interconnected, and our collective challenges became increasingly complex and borderless, it would require a new kind of teaching and learning to prepare the next generation.

TODAY
We’re changing the system. We’ve reached nearly 700,000 students and more than 5,000 teachers across 25 states and 12 countries. We’re helping to change the national discourse on education, from a conversation focused solely on achievement through the lens of test taking, to one focused on the skills and dispositions needed in the future to be an engaged citizen, a creative problem solver, and a thriving professional.

TOMORROW
After 16 years, we know this for certain: our current K–12 education system was designed when standardized learning and testing aimed to prepare young people to succeed in standardized jobs and homogeneous communities. This system is not only outdated, but has also never adequately prepared all students for success. This is no longer a viable option. As our world becomes more interconnected and interdependent, and the U.S. increasingly diverse, this reality must be reflected in how and what we’re teaching our students.

TOGETHER
We are making a difference. While events on the national stage have been divisive over the past year, we’ve never been more inspired to drive our mission forward. And in working with phenomenal partners, teachers, and students, we’ve seen that inspiration manifest in incredible ways, which we’re proud to feature in this annual report. Our success is yours to share. And I hope you will share it—with colleagues, with friends, with family—because deep, meaningful, and lasting change will only be accomplished together.

With deep appreciation,

Dana Mortenson

"WE’RE PREPARING STUDENTS NOT ONLY TO BE ACADEMICALLY SUCCESSFUL, WE’RE PREPARING THEM TO BE SUCCESSFUL HUMANS IN THE FUTURE."

— Andrew Dahm, World Savvy teacher
World Savvy is a national education nonprofit reimagining K-12 education for a more globally connected world. We know students must be prepared not only to succeed in the future, but also to take responsibility for a global community that will require even more resilient peacemakers, courageous problem solvers, and passionate leaders.

That’s why we’re empowering educators to make school inclusive, relevant, and engaging for all students, inspiring them to learn, work, and thrive as responsible global citizens.

As a result, we envision a world in which students graduate:

- Prepared as problem solvers, poised to address future local and global challenges that are increasingly interconnected and interdependent.
- With the knowledge and skills necessary for future jobs in a global economy.

**OUR APPROACH**

What We Do

We partner with students, educators, and school leaders to integrate global competence into K-12 learning, teaching, and school culture.

**STUDENTS**

We work with students to explore real-world global challenges and crucial social justice issues, inspiring them to become changemakers in their communities.

**EDUCATORS**

We provide workshops and coaching for educators to create classrooms that explore complex global issues, engage all students, and are relevant for our changing world.

**SCHOOLS**

We engage whole schools and districts through leadership development, school-wide training and professional learning communities, and program assessment. This holistic approach allows us to reach the greatest number of students while creating deep, meaningful, and lasting shifts in K-12 education.

What is global competence?

World Savvy defines global competence as the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors necessary to navigate and succeed in today’s interconnected world.

Globally competent individuals are life-long learners, understand globally significant issues, practice empathy, appreciate cultural differences, understand and consider multiple perspectives, use critical and comparative thinking, and problem solve collaboratively.

“My dream for my students is that they feel empowered to make change in their situations or surroundings. I believe in World Savvy because it allows students to explore their interactions with the world and how they can start being part of making that change now. My middle schoolers learn that their ideas carry weight, that their unique perspectives have just as much validity as adults when it comes to solving global issues.”

—Eli Zimmerman, World Savvy teacher
We supported schools, teachers, and students across the country, working together to reimagine education for a more globally connected world. In San Diego, we continued to innovate in collaboration with a STEAM magnet school to make learning real and relevant for their diverse student population. Outside Knoxville, TN, we piloted a strategy exploring the impact global competence education can have on communities experiencing shifts in demography. In New York City, we hosted a workshop based on teaching using the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals, offering educators a framework for their students to better understand global issues and to engage as problem solvers. Investment in our team in the Twin Cities and the Bay Area allowed us to strengthen our World Savvy Classrooms program and Partnerships work, ultimately having greater impact on the teachers and students we served. Through all our programs, we reached 40,875 students and 622 teachers.

2017-2018 School Year Highlights

90% of students increased their global competence during the school year.

84% of students at the World Savvy Festival left feeling more confident their projects would change the world.

82% of teachers said World Savvy helped increase their capacity to teach global competence.

Served in our World Savvy Classrooms program that combines real-world global challenges, high-quality teacher coaching, and the most promising methods for student engagement.

Attended a World Savvy Festival sharing their ideas to solve local and global issues with community members.

Participated in our Global Competence Certificate Program completing master’s-level courses in global competence and learning how to bring these lessons into their K-12 classrooms.

Worked with us to focus on system-wide change by integrating global competence throughout teaching, learning, and school culture.

“This year...”

Since founding in 2002, we have reached 695,875 students and 5,165 teachers across 24 states and Washington, D.C.

600+ students
37 educators
7 schools

States Reached
World Savvy Home States

“Teachers feel the pressure and the stress of needing to cover state content, to cover math, to cover English Language Arts standards; it’s also good to remember we’re preparing students not only to be academically successful, we’re preparing them to be successful humans in the future. I think everything we’re doing with World Savvy is right in line with that. I’m confident that the stuff we’re doing in class is going to lead to my students being better able to be positive members of the community in the future.”

— Andrew Dahm
World Savvy teacher
The gains we’re making across the country in preparing the next generation of students to learn, work, and thrive as responsible global citizens are only possible through partnerships with incredible schools, districts, and organizations that believe in this mission.

Our 2017–2018 partners include:

- Ashoka
- The Awty International School (TX)
- Blue Oak School (CA)
- Brisbane School District (CA)
  - Lipman Middle School
- California International Studies Project/California Global Education Project
- Connect Community Charter School (CA)
- Crew 2030
- Digital Promise
- Eastern Carver County Schools (MN)
  - Chanhassen High School
- Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley (CA)
- Generation Citizen
- Holy Spirit Catholic School (MN)
- IIE’s Generation Study Abroad
- Knox County Schools (TN)
  - West High School
- Mill Valley School District (CA)
  - Mill Valley Middle School
- Mills College (CA)
- Minneapolis Public Schools (MN)
  - Edison High School
  - Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center
  - The FAIR School
  - Heritage Academy
  - Northeast Middle School
  - Wellstone International High School
- Norwich Public Schools (CT)
  - Teachers’ Memorial Middle School
- Oakland Unified School District (CA)
  - Fremont High School
  - Roosevelt Middle School
- Orono Public Schools (MN)
  - Orono Middle School
- Park Day School (CA)
- Pelissippi State Community College (TN)
- Prepa Tec
- River School (CA)
- Saint Paul Public Schools (MN)
  - Battle Creek Middle School
  - Johnson Senior High School
  - Parkway Montessori Middle School
- San Diego Unified School District (CA)
  - Montgomery Middle School
- Solutions Journalism Network
- The Under-Told Stories Project
- University of St. Thomas (MN)
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Wildwood School (CA)

We’ve also shared our vision in the following places:

- Annual Summer Seminar for Language Educators (the California Language Teachers’ Association and the California World Language Project)
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Empower18
- California Council for the Social Studies’ Social Studies Review
- California International Baccalaureate State Conference
- Consortium for School Networking/UNESCO Symposium: Educating for Digital Citizenship
- IEARN Conference
- IREX
- Global Education Conference
- Minnesota Independent Schools STEM Education Conference
- National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference
- PBS NewsHour’s “Brief But Spectacular”
- SXSW EDU
- Twin Cities Social Justice Education Fair

In our second year of partnership with Montgomery Middle School in San Diego, World Savvy provided training and coaching for teachers throughout the year. Their students learned about the Sustainable Development Goals and then worked through World Savvy’s Knowledge to Action process to develop solutions to global and local issues.

One group of 7th graders was concerned about access to healthy food in their community. In order to provide consistent access to organic produce, they found a food truck that wasn’t being used two days a week, partnered with the owners and local farmers, and created a business plan to sell produce out of the truck.

**Whole-School Approach to Global Competence**

**80% of teachers** increased knowledge of global competence

**79% of teachers** increased ability to help students employ design thinking

**89% of teachers** increased ability to implement a project-based learning unit
World Savvy’s work is increasingly important in this moment in time. As global migration changes the demography of our communities, there’s an urgent need to ensure that our K–12 education system can make learning relevant and engaging for all students and prepare them for a rapidly changing future.

It’s estimated that 65% of today’s grade schoolers will hold jobs in the future that don’t yet exist. Therefore, the most valuable skills for students to cultivate are critical thinking, problem solving, adaptability, comfort with ambiguity, collaboration, and multidisciplinary thinking—the cornerstone of our work. On a larger scale, we face increasingly borderless challenges that will require unprecedented cooperation to address.

**World Savvy’s 2030 Vision**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

By 2030, World Savvy’s goal is to engage a network of 10,000 schools in diverse geographies across the U.S., representing approximately 10% of schools and reaching an estimated 5 million students.

We will leverage the learning and impact in this network of schools to change broader policy and create a future-ready K–12 system that prepares young people for life as engaged citizens, thriving professionals, and global problem solvers.

**Spotlight on the East Tennessee Global Education Network**

For the last 16 years, the majority of our work has been centered around, and anchored in, urban areas. We were eager to understand how our model can effectively support education stakeholders and champions working for change in rural regions or smaller communities. Additionally, we were interested in understanding more deeply the roots of the divisive climate we are experiencing across this country, and examining the correlation between systematic changes in education to broader changes in disposition among community members—around change, difference, and diversity.

Beginning in 2016, World Savvy began to explore new partnerships outside urban areas. We were working to assess opportunities to partner with community-based stakeholders in K–20 education to integrate global competence into the local education ecosystem, with the goal of building stronger, more cohesive communities, and a generation of young people ready to thrive in a diverse world.

In the coming year, World Savvy will work with five K–12 schools in and around Knoxville, Tennessee in a yearlong training cycle, designed to bolster students’ 21st century skills and global competence. We’ll work with a higher education partner to embed our Global Competence Certificate into their programming, and co-create and deliver professional development to teachers throughout the region. And we’ll collaborate with community college partners, to help faculty build the capacity to integrate global competence into teaching practice and campus culture.

**Breaking Barriers by Building Empathy**

When Taylor, Guitar, Mus Hsae, and Vichai started exploring the World Savvy Classroom’s theme of Breaking Barriers, the topic they decided to work on was bullying. They were alarmed that so many middle and high school students reported being bullied, that social media was only amplifying the issue, and that suicide rates among young people were increasing.

World Savvy’s model helped the students take this global problem and search for a local solution: starting a friendship club at their school where everyone was welcome.

Taylor said, “I learned that a lot of people at my school have been bullied and reasons why they have been bullied, and I think it built my relationship with a lot of kids.”
Over the past year, thanks to generous donors, World Savvy was able to make significant financial investments in capacity building and invest in our long-term vision of change.
We could not do our work without the support of many incredible donors who believe in our mission and believe in us. On behalf of all of World Savvy’s students, teachers, and schools working relentlessly for a better world, thank you!

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CULTURAL PRINCIPLES
Through our efforts to explore and unpack issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work, we recognized the need to more tangibly define our organizational culture and underlying principles. These are the values, beliefs, norms, and behaviors that are leaned into, practiced, and lifted up in all interactions with and within World Savvy:

1. WE DO THE BEST WORK POSSIBLE IN SERVICE OF OUR MISSION. 2. WE BELIEVE COLLABORATION IS ESSENTIAL. 3. WE SEE PEOPLE AS WHOLE HUMAN BEINGS. 4. WE INTENTIONALLY GROW AND CHANGE. 5. WE LEAN INTO COMPLEXITY. 6. WE BELIEVE BIG THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. 7. WE NOTICE AND DISRUPT EXCLUSIONARY PATTERNS. 8. WE BRING HOPE, JOY, AND A SENSE OF ASPIRATION INTO ALL THAT WE DO.