



## Elementary School: Building the Foundation

Elementary school is where students begin their Future Ready journey, laying the groundwork for **global competence, character education, sustainability awareness, and service learning**—the pillars that guide K–12 learning. Our **student-centered, character-based programs** are fully **customizable to meet the unique needs of your school**.

Grounded in the New York State CR-S framework, our approach affirms linguistic, cultural, and racial identities while connecting students with peers locally and globally. Students are encouraged to see themselves as part of a global community and develop the mindset, empathy, and skills to become agents of change. By beginning in elementary school and continuing through middle and high school, One World ensures students graduate as responsible, action-oriented global citizens—ready to thrive, lead, and take meaningful action in a rapidly changing world.

### Future Ready Starts Here

Through signature character education and global connections activities, students explore their role in the world and develop empathy, respect, and curiosity. These experiences foster intercultural understanding and prepare students to think beyond their local context.

Our principal future-ready goal at the elementary school level is to help your students and educators build global competence. Using our award-winning E - C - E curricula where we:

**Educate** students to understand the world around them

**Connect** students through Good Character

**Empower** them through Service Learning

The end goal of our Head - Hearts - Hands approach is to see your students graduate with

A **Worldview** capable of meeting the unprecedented opportunities and challenges of a hyper-connected, interdependent world.

A **Moral Compass** that prepares your students for the exponential change coming our way.

A **Positive, Can-do, Abundance Mindset**, gained through successful project-based, experiential, service-learning activities.

### Program Content

Elementary schools gain access to 100+ hours of modular global competence classes and activities designed to build character and perspective, with global competence being the end goal.



**Core 4 Lessons** – Group Agreements, Core Values, Random Acts of Kindness, and We Are One World. These four student-centered lessons are designed to introduce your students and educators to the core principles driving One World programs.

**Virtual Exchange/Global Connections:** We have developed formal curricula to help you take full advantage of improving video technologies and our growing global learning community to help you build global competence with your students and educators.

This is one of our most popular programs and perhaps the easiest to implement. You can connect with our classrooms around the globe using either of the formal curricula included below or we can customize a virtual exchange for you and your educators on any topic of interest to you ranging from language instruction to an exchange of art performances to robotics.

[Virtual Exchange: Formal Global Connections Program - 6 sessions](#)

[Virtual Exchange: Holiday Celebrations](#)

**Service Learning: Service Learning has been the cornerstone of our global competence program from day one.** As you can see from this research piece, we prepared for a conference we organized on global competence with Professor Reimers of Harvard and 60 educators from across the globe who joined us, there is no single, agreed-upon definition for global competence; however, each of the definitions does require action, as you can see [HERE](#).

As you will read, it is not enough to understand the challenges faced by our world or even to empathize with others' plight; every definition of global competence ends with the need to take action to better our world.

In our service-learning program, we ask students to identify challenges faced by each of the communities in which they participate - school, local, regional, national, and global - and then agree which challenge they intend to address. They are then expected to collaborate, design, and implement a solution, and then evaluate how well they achieved their goals.

Here are the lesson plans we have developed for our [Service Learning series](#)  
[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFM9gRdJhE/NgZ-vwpiAU\\_VH1htjfA7hg/view?utm\\_content=DAFM9gRdJhE&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=publishsharelink#1](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFM9gRdJhE/NgZ-vwpiAU_VH1htjfA7hg/view?utm_content=DAFM9gRdJhE&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink#1)

**Grade-Specific Global Competence Lessons:** Over the years, we have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Harvard Professor Fernando Reimers, a world-renowned thought leader on global competence. Professor Reimers has been kind enough to share five



global competence lessons per grade from his book “60 Lessons”. We have made these lessons available to K-12 educators interested in building global competence in their schools. For those educators looking to build global competence in their school they might want to consider cross-walking some of these lessons into their global competence programs.

Dr. Reimer's: [Empowering Students to Improve the World in 60 Lessons](#)

### **SEL & Character Education**

We believe that in a world where no one really has any idea what the world will look like in 20 years, the one thing we can provide our students that can last a lifetime is strong values that can and should last a lifetime. Moreover, we think there is an essential link between good character, good behavior, or good acts and good citizenship.

Indeed, we believe that there is an intimate link between good character and global competence, as this quote from a Character Education Partnership White Paper makes clear:

***“The goal is not only college and career ready but also for the tests of life, not a life of tests. Character is a dimension of life that helps us persevere during challenges, treat others with dignity, and advance our community.*”**

***In a 21st Century global society that has the technological capacity to destroy itself, the world sorely needs the next generation to develop its character with compassion and integrity to value every member of the human community.”***

This quote captures the essence of One World programs. Indeed, we suggest that given the unprecedented challenges brought on by social media and our fractured world, schools give serious consideration to both SEL and Character Education. We have developed robust curricula for you to choose from both: [SEL](#) & [Character Education](#)

### **Customizing our Elementary School Global Competence Program to Meet Your Goals**

While we believe the challenges facing educators relative to preparing their students for 21st Century challenges and opportunities are similar, we also understand that it is important that we customize our numerous product offerings to meet your specific needs and goals.

To that end, we have pulled together this curriculum map that we will review with you to see how best we can accommodate our programs to fit your needs:

[Elementary: 30 Hr Global Competence Curriculum Map](#)

You might also want to review this sample 5th Grade Teacher Guidebook to get a sense of our lessons: [5th Grade - One World Future Ready](#)



### **Flexible Delivery Models**

Our program is designed to align with school schedules and classroom priorities. It can be integrated into **after-school clubs, enrichment blocks, or directly into the classroom.** Programs range from 10–30 hours annually, allowing schools to start with a shorter commitment and expand over time.

As elementary school teachers spend approximately 900 hours with their students each year, our hope is that as you become increasingly comfortable with our programs, ensuring that they comply with local educational standards, you consider seamlessly integrating some of our Future Ready global competence lessons directly into your regular classroom instruction.

### **Sample Elementary School Program**

There are several ways our programs can be implemented throughout the time your students are with you in elementary school. As mentioned above, we seek to customize our programs for every school and school district that adopts our programs.

We thought you might find this suggested framework helpful in thinking about how best to incorporate our lessons: [Suggested Program Implementation: Intro Kit \(Grades 3–5\)](#)

While this program is suggested for New York State educators, the sequencing provides a valid model for all schools as this is intended as a first step. The next step would be for our One World team to meet with the school leadership to customize a program that helps you achieve your schoolwide goals.