

# Inspiring Insights Newsletter



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## Spotlight

### A Spotlight on Sonali Srivastava

Sonali Srivastava is a Director on the Board of Educate. Radiate. Elevate. because she believes education has the potential to change life trajectories. She argues that every child who can get help from tutors, without increasing their financial burdens, will grow in their academic confidence.

As a patent lawyer, she interacts with cutting-edge biochemistry and helps in protecting pharmaceutical inventions to positively impact the lives of patients. She is proud of living in the intersectionality of being an intellectual property professional, a first-generation immigrant, and a mother of two amazing children. She works on numerous collaborations, licenses,



acquisitions, and merger transactions for AbbVie Inc., and has a love for playing the Indian classical drums, a passion that she has kept up for 40 years. One of her goals is to be an active ally to people of color and underprivileged youth.

“Deciding to leave home as a young teenager and pursuing my dream could have faltered many times over. There were so many reasons to pause. However, through inspiration especially from my parents, family, and teachers, and with sweat, persistence, and hard work, the journey was possible.”

Learn more about Sonali [here](#).

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## **E.R.E. Updates**

We completed our 2nd year as a successful nonprofit.

Read our [2022 Annual Report!](#)

This year has been a time of abundant growth for E.R.E.!

# TESTIMONIALS

Here's what say about E.R.E.



"Hi, my first tutoring session went really well. She was very encouraging and accepting so it was much better as an environment for me to learn."

-11th grader in Chicago



"It's going well! [My tutor] has been patient and helpful as ever, and she helps me complete my homework and review for quizzes and tests. I can't think of anything that needs to be improved."

—11th grader in Chicago



"My first two months have gone really well! I appreciate "Tutoring has gone extremely well for [my daughter]. It has helped out her math skills and increased her confidence tremendously."

- Parent of 11th grader in Chicago



"[My student] has been responsive to our sessions and is always willing to express her needs for class. We are in the habit of checking her grades every week to make sure she is on track with her work. I have also been working with her to build confidence."

- Tutor of 6th grader in Chicago

We are excited for even more success in 2023!

Read our recent Blogs for students, parents, and educators:

[Value of Writing](#)

[Five Positives of Immigration: Why it's Crucial for a Nation](#)

[5 Strategies to Improve Your Child's Executive Function Skills](#)

## [5 Ways to Maintain Motivation for New Year's Resolutions](#)

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### **E.R.E. Announcements**

- **Advisory Committee:** This NEW committee is made up of parents, students, educators, and leaders in the communities of/near Chicago, DFW, and Houston. They provide a unique perspective of the students' needs, which E.R.E. highly values! To learn more, [email the Executive Director!](#)
- **Fundraising Committee:** We are searching for new members to join our dedicated fundraising team! As a member of our Fundraising Committee, you will play a significant role in our early phases of development and help ensure our sustainability for many years to come. [Join today!](#)
- **Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteer [ambassadors](#), [interns](#), [tutors](#), and operational [professionals](#). As a member of Educate. Radiate. Elevate. you will have the opportunity to collaborate with a varied group of people and make a real difference in society. [Apply now!](#)
- **Donors:** We must work together to achieve our objectives of educating equitably, radiating success, and elevating society. Your contribution will provide children from less fortunate backgrounds with the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond. [Become a donor today!](#)

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### **Recent News in Education**

**“A Texas superintendent ordered school librarians to remove LGBTQ books. Now the federal government is investigating.”**

**Publisher: NBC**

**Date: December 20, 2022**

An American Civil Liberties Union complaint involving a Texas superintendent’s comments regarding LGBTQ+ books in school libraries has caught the attention of the federal Department of Education. Superintendent Jeremy Glenn is recorded saying “I don’t have any issues with what people want to believe, but there’s no place for it in our libraries,” in reference to LGBTQ+ themes in books. The ACLU points to his words as fostering a “pervasively hostile” environment in the school district. This sort of event is not unique to this school district, as the Department of Education has started investigations in several other school districts across the country with similar stories.



*Do you think an action like this is a reason for concern? Why or why not?*

## [“A Chaotic Start to a New Congress: What Educators Need to Know”](#)

**Publisher: EducationWeek**

**Date: January 4, 2023**



With a new Congress, things will change in regards to federal policy on education. Each chamber’s Committee on Education will be headed by an opposing party member. The Senate committee in charge of education is most likely going to be headed by left-wing Bernie Sanders of Vermont with the House committee headed by Republican Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. The two share virtually opposite viewpoints in regards to education, as Foxx wants to weaken unions and emphasize parent choice while Sanders is pro-union and wants the federal government more involved in schooling. In regards to each chamber’s leadership, the now-Majority Leader of the Senate Chuck Schumer of New York has a great track record with involvement in education legislation, having co-sponsored over 200 bills regarding education, whereas Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy has only ever sponsored two bills.

*What do you hope this new  
Congress is likely to achieve in the  
new year?*

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We will continue to keep you in the loop with updates about Educate. Radiate. Elevate. as well about education, equity, community news, and the like. If you know someone who is also passionate about helping youth, supporting educational equity, and fostering community development, please forward them this newsletter so they can [sign up!](#)