



# REGIONAL IMPACT & INNOVATION REPORT 2020-21: Washington, DC



Facing a school year of uncertainty with COVID-19 disruptions, Reading Partners collaborated with teachers and school leaders to meet students' learning needs, including creating an online tutoring program.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

### STUDENT METRICS

**19** partner schools

**420** students received 12+ sessions of one-on-one tutoring

**1,317** students and/or family members participated in Reading Partners Beyond programs such as:



**10,970** total tutoring sessions

**100%** of sessions delivered online via Reading Partners Connects 

*“My child gets excited about coming to Reading Partners and getting that one-on-one attention.”*  
— Parent of a Reading Partners student

### Student performance

Despite historic educational disruptions, **79%** of K-2 Reading Partners students and **67%** of all Reading Partners students met or exceeded their primary literacy growth goal.

*“I can't imagine running a school without Reading Partners.”*  
— Partner school principal

### VOLUNTEER METRICS





**516** community tutors

**4,232** total hours spent in training

**86%** of volunteers satisfied with their volunteer experience\*

*“During this extraordinary time, I think Reading Partners has learned that they could quickly and effectively pivot their program to continue to serve students in the midst of an educational crisis.”*  
— Deborah, volunteer tutor with Reading Partners for 11 years

### New 2020-21 training focused on:

-  Reading Partners Connects online tutoring
-  Educational equity
-  Social-emotional learning
-  Trauma-informed care

\*Among respondents of 2020-21 surveys

## INVESTING IN KEY LEARNINGS ENABLES FUTURE GROWTH AND IMPACT

- Continuing both in-person and online tutoring will **increase program accessibility** for students and volunteers.
- By expanding our family engagement services, we have invested in direct connections that will **build holistic supports** for students.
- Our deep investment in race equity, diversity, and inclusion training will ensure volunteers, staff, and AmeriCorps members **develop strong connections** with students and communities.

3939 Benning Road NE, Washington, DC 20019  
(202) 701-9110 | [readingpartners.org](http://readingpartners.org)

An evidence-based program that gets results



## A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR READING PARTNERS BEYOND INNOVATION PROGRAMS



**Book distribution:** To combat the “summer slide” and celebrate student progress made during the school year, Reading Partners distributed culturally diverse books to students along with learning materials to support comprehension practice at the end of the school year.



**Family literacy resources in English and Spanish:** Regions shared Reading Partners-designed one-page literacy resources for parents and caregivers written in English and Spanish, with other languages to be added as the need arises.



**Family engagement workshops:** Reading Partners provided opportunities for families to learn more about literacy strategies and resources to support learning at home through quarterly virtual workshops.



**Student learning packets:** In alignment with Reading Partners’ curriculum levels, Reading Partners compiled and distributed materials to support student learning at home using materials that can be found in the home and do not require technology.

## INNOVATION EXTENDED TO OUR VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING



**Reading Partners Connects online tutoring:** Reading Partners Connects allowed Reading Partners volunteer tutors to continue to support students in an online environment using Reading Partners’ evidence-based curriculum. All volunteer tutors participated in four hours of Reading Partners Connects training to ensure that they were prepared to deliver sessions effectively through a digital platform.



**Educational equity:** Both returning and new volunteers received training on educational equity this past year during the tutor orientation process. This included examining challenges our public schools are facing, the opportunity gap, and common myths about learning to read. Orientations also encouraged volunteers to reflect on their own identities and examine implicit biases and how to disrupt them. On the 2020-21 two-month tutor survey, 86 percent of respondents affirmed that they were able to reflect on educational equity and implicit bias during their initial training.



**Social-emotional learning:** Both returning and new volunteers also received training during the tutor orientation on social-emotional learning—what it is, how it is baked into our program model, and what supporting students’ social-emotional learning looks like in action.



**Trauma-informed practices:** This tutor training defines types of trauma, informs how trauma may show up in the brain/body and how tutors may notice it showing up in a session, and provides tangible strategies that tutors can use to support their students.

## OUR PROGRAM WORKS



**A recent DC Public Schools evaluation** found that students who participated in Reading Partners in 2018-19 scored 30% higher on their DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) test scores than their peers who did not participate in our program.