Delivering results in the face of challenges posed by COVID-19

The 2019-20 school year was unlike any other in our history due to the disruptions caused by the global health pandemic. As a result, the report below shows the progress made while students were in school as well as the student support innovations implemented after stay-in-place orders were issued.

AUGUST 2019 – EARLY MARCH 2020: Progress made while students were in school

Student performance (based on mid-year assessments)
Despite a significantly shorter school year, Reading Partners students showed impressive gains in foundational reading skills.

81% of all Reading Partners students were meeting or exceeding their primary literacy growth goal.

82% of K-2 Reading Partners students were developing mastery of key foundational reading skills* needed to read at grade level.

By the numbers (through March 2020)

667 students served
91% students experiencing economic disadvantages*
29% English language learners*
18,818 tutoring sessions
822 community tutors
28 average sessions per student
19 partner schools

*We track growth in the key foundational literacy skills students need to become independent readers, such as alphabetic principle, phonics, and vocabulary.

Program highlights (based on 2019-20 survey respondents)

100% of PRINCIPALS reported improved school-wide reading progress.
98% of TEACHERS reported satisfaction with the Reading Partners program.
95% of VOLUNTEERS were satisfied with their volunteer experience.

MID-MARCH – JUNE 2020: Student support innovations

Reading Partners rapidly implemented the following literacy supports selectively in regions across the country to ensure students could continue making progress toward reading on grade level.

- “Take reading with you” book distribution for students*
- Digital library platform with free access to high-quality books
- Skill-specific trainings to support volunteer effectiveness*
- Literacy skill videos using research-based curriculum materials*
- Individualized reading plan skill videos customized for specific students
- Live and recorded read aloud videos featuring high-quality diverse texts
- Family texting program in partnership with Bright by Text*
- Family literacy resources designed in English and Spanish*
- Summer books for students and literacy tips and resources for families*

*Innovation implemented locally

An evidence-based program that gets results
Multiple independent studies of Reading Partners show significant impacts on student literacy skills and emerging evidence suggests positive outcomes on social-emotional learning.