

# READING PARTNERS BEYOND

*Program innovations: 2020-21*



*Reading Partners has made several adjustments to our program to create flexibility with our school partners and better meet our students' needs. All 12 regions across the US are implementing the programming below in alignment with the requests and requirements from schools and districts. Therefore, the implementation of these programs in each Reading Partners region varies.*

## Reading Partners Connects (1-on-1 online tutoring)



Reading Partners Connects allows Reading Partners to continue to serve students in an online environment using Reading Partners' evidence-based curriculum. Content integrates our trusted curriculum skills and lessons into innovative presentations to optimize student engagement and incorporate social-emotional learning (SEL) opportunities through relationship-building with tutors.

Where we cannot bring volunteers or AmeriCorps members into schools, are limited in the number of sessions possible due to social distancing, or need to push into classrooms, Reading Partners Connects allows us to continue supporting students' literacy needs.

*"One thing I was a little bit nervous about was in this virtual world...where does Reading Partners fit in? So I was so excited that Reading Partners has already completely transformed to a virtual program. The kids are able to still meet with their tutors one-on-one."*

**- Andrea Renteria, Partner-School Principal**

## Reading Partners in the classroom

We recognize that as schools reduce class sizes for social distancing, more classrooms in each school are needed and we no longer have access to spaces for physical tutoring. Learning time has been limited by either supplemental pull-out time being reduced or when students are on campus/in buildings for a reduced number of days per week, and we need to tutor in the classroom to accommodate for these limitations. Reading Partners Connects can be used in cases where students have returned to school but tutors are not yet allowed in the building. In cases where tutors are allowed in schools, our traditional program is an option.



## Digital library

By expanding on a pilot test during the last school year, Reading Partners is creating free, 24-hour/7 day-a-week access to digital libraries of high-quality, diverse texts for students and families. As we continue to expand our reach and offer “Whole School” literacy services to our current school partners, this opportunity is open to both Reading Partners’ students and the broader school population, where sufficient funding is available. The digital libraries include both fiction and non-fiction texts, in multiple genres and interest areas for students, with a searchable index for books at their grade level and independent reading level.



## Family engagement

Reading Partners believes that families and caregivers have always been vital to student success in school and in life, and they should be engaged in multiple ways this year and in future years. Through fall 2020 and early winter 2021, there has been very little in-person learning across our school partners due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, making online tutoring and family communication even more vital to student success this year. Although student learning has been 100% remote or hybrid, we anticipate an increasing number of students will have time in schools with teachers while also continuing with some remote learning. Below, we outline ways that Reading Partners is increasing our support of families and students at home in the 2020-21 school year:



**Family texting:** Reading Partners will continue to text literacy tips to families in English or Spanish 2-3 times per week, along with helpful links to how-to videos and additional information.



**Student Learning Packets:** Reading Partners is distributing physical materials to support learning at home in alignment with Reading Partners’ curriculum.



**Family Literacy Resources:** Reading Partners-designed one-page literacy resources with tips for parents and caregivers are written in English and Spanish and are easy to distribute. With additional funding available, regions can share these resources in additional languages.

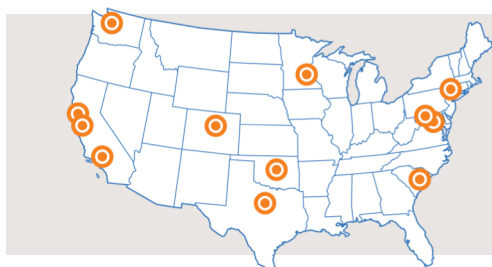


**Family Engagement Workshops:** In addition to weekly communications with family members and students about online tutoring, regional teams are partnering with schools to be actively involved in family outreach and offering opportunities for in-person and/or virtual family literacy workshops.



**Family and Community Advisory Groups:** Launching this spring, Reading Partners will create regionally driven advisory groups where parents and other caregivers in our communities will share their needs and wants around literacy.

## 12 Reading Partners regions across the country



Baltimore  
Colorado  
Los Angeles Area  
New York  
North Texas  
San Francisco Bay Area

Seattle  
Silicon Valley  
South Carolina  
Tulsa  
Twin Cities  
Washington, DC

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