

# NATIONAL IMPACT & INNOVATION REPORT

## 2021-22



With schools facing attendance and enrollment challenges, Reading Partners leveraged a mix of traditional and innovative programs and partnerships to provide critical support to students, schools, and communities throughout a second full year of COVID-19 disruptions. In spite of unprecedented challenges, Reading Partners reached over 30% more students than in the prior school year.

### By the numbers

— During the school year —



**5,371** students received 12+ sessions of one-on-one tutoring



**138,084** total tutoring sessions  
(26 sessions per student on average)



**49%** of sessions delivered online via Reading Partners Connects



**5,814** community tutors



**181** partner schools and other community-based locations

— In the summer —



**323** students received one-on-one tutoring



**1,817** total tutoring sessions

### Program recognition

**Principals**  
**89%**

report improved school-wide progress.\*

**Teachers**  
**100%**

report Reading Partners is valuable to their school.\*

**Volunteers**  
**90%**

are satisfied with their volunteering experience.\*

\*Among respondents of 2021-22 surveys

### Student performance



All Reading Partners students

**77%**

meeting or exceeding their primary end-of-year literacy growth goal.



K-2 Reading Partners students

**82%**

developing mastery of key foundational reading skills\* needed to read at grade level.

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

### Additional school and family literacy support



**7,433**

additional students received non-tutoring literacy services including take-home books and literacy packets, digital library access, or family workshops.

### An evidence-based program



# EXPANDING THE IMPACT OF LITERACY THROUGH INNOVATION, PARTNERSHIPS, AND RACIAL EQUITY



*In the initial year of our new strategic plan, we've made good progress toward our vision of positively impacting exponentially more students.*



## **Priority 1: Innovate to scale**

- Reading Partners added several new features to the Reading Partners Connects online platform to improve the system's functionality for AmeriCorps members and tutors and the feedback was very positive.
- Nearly half of all our tutoring sessions in the 2021-22 school year were online sessions with students accessing the platform online in their schools and tutors engaging from an offsite location. AmeriCorps members and thousands of tutors continued to support student learning.
- In addition, we continued designing Reading Partners Connects for the future by vetting additional platforms that will improve the ease of use for tutors and increase student engagement.
- Reading Partners was awarded a five-year Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Grant to evaluate, optimize, and scale our online tutoring program.



## **Priority 2: Engage and partner**

*In the 2021-22 school year, Reading Partners provided curriculum, data systems, training, and coaching support to partner organizations in an effort to reach even more students and communities.*



**Teach For America:** TFA launched a new tutoring program called Ignite where TFA recruits fellows as tutors and partners with school staff to manage the fellows. Reading Partners provided the curriculum and online tutoring platform to implement the Ignite program along with onboarding training and consistent ongoing coaching and trainings throughout the second half of the school year.



**Five Below and Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association:** Five Below partnered with nonprofit Oxford Circle CCDA to deliver online tutoring sessions to students in the Philadelphia metro area. Reading Partners trained the retailer's corporate employees to deliver one-on-one tutoring to students participating in Oxford Circle CCDA's after-school educational programming.



**Northside Achievement Zone:** In partnership with the Twin Cities regional team, Reading Partners extended beyond our traditional school setting to implement programming in the broader community. The reading center was staffed by Reading Partners and the Northside Achievement Zone provided tutors, family engagement, and registered students to participate in the program.



## **Priority 3: Center students through racial equity**

- We've invested in three new roles: chief talent & equity officer, director of talent, and director of equity to help the organization live into our values.
- All staff, AmeriCorps members, and volunteers received training on educational equity and systemic racism. All training included self-reflection on racialized identities, bias, and disrupting harm.
- We developed a race equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI) language framework to inform how we talk about Reading Partners, our students, our communities, and our work in an affirming and ethical way.

