

IMPACT REPORT

Dear friends and neighbors, I am grateful to you, our friends, families, partners, volunteers, and donors for your commitment and trust in Readers 2 Leaders to equip students for success through the power of reading. It is because of you that we have completed another successful academic year. We look forward to what this upcoming year will bring.

Thanks to your support, 1,689 students and 301 adults received literacy support services through our initiatives during the 2022-2023 academic year and summer. Our vision is for students to have equitable opportunities as readers and leaders, regardless of their reading level, neighborhood, race/ethnicity, or income status. The multiple programs we offer meet students, both children and adults, where they are in all types of classrooms and educational settings. While we work with young readers directly, we also coach adults on best practices for developing reading skills to support the children in their lives.

We also strive to be a resource and leader in the literacy community. When Aspire, another literacy organization, needed space to teach adult ESL classes, Readers 2 Leaders opened its doors. We will continue to share our facility through this fall.

As a founding member of Read Up North Texas, a coalition of literacy-focused organizations, we advocate for community partnerships and collaborations.

If you haven't visited or volunteered recently, please consider stopping by. We host quarterly Open Houses and will launch a new biannual Advisory Board to offer opportunities for deeper engagement with our work. In the meantime, I am excited to share our 2022-2023 Impact Report.

Sincerely,



Norma Nelson, President and CEO



Readers 2 Leaders: Equipping All Students for Success



Readers 2 Leaders 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders **Meet and Exceed Targets** in reading.*



More than 63% of Readers 2 Leaders 1st graders who are Black/African American **Met** Projected Growth Targets in reading compared to 38% in Dallas ISD.*



Read Up students are 10x more likely to improve reading for every 10 hours of programming attended

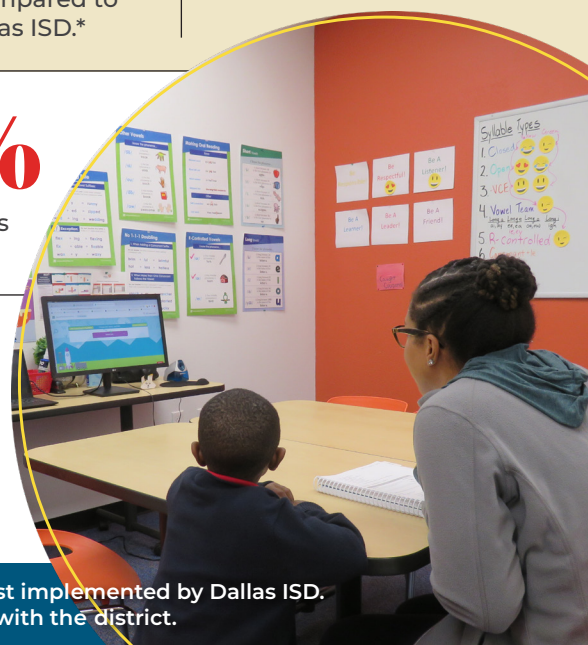


1,689

students received literacy support services

98%

were students of color



Meeting Students Where They Are:

10

Dallas ISD In-School Partner Sites

3

School Coaching Sites

6

Community Coaching Sites

Plus

the Readers 2 Leaders Booktown Learning Center in West Dallas

*Assessed by Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), an adaptive achievement and growth test implemented by Dallas ISD. Readers 2 Leaders uses this framework to ensure student growth is measured in alignment with the district.

Impact in Action



At the beginning of the school year, I had a disengaged student in my class. He was reading below the first-grade level for the first few months and struggled to read any sight words or first-grade-level books. In addition to using Really Great Reading exercises, I pulled this student into a small group class and scheduled one-on-one time to work on decodable passages. The lightbulb moment was when he said, "I can read now; I can really read all the books I want!" He is currently reading at a second-grade level. Now, he always carries a book and reads at every opportunity.

– Bianca Delgado,
1st-grade teacher
at St. Mary of Carmel
Catholic School



Communities of Readers

152

Reading Buddies
provided 3,268
hours of reading
sessions

301

adults served

89

corporate and group volunteers
provided 552 hours of activities



Certified Success

In 2023, Readers 2 Leaders achieved **Certified Prime by the Center for Nonprofit Management (CNM)**, demonstrating our data-driven practices and commitment to continuous learning. We are excited to continue this partnership with CNM and ground our work in measurable impact.

This year, we were also **re-certified by Dallas Afterschool** for our programs' Safety and Quality. This certification through 2025 represents our rigorous standards in safety for children and professional development for our staff.

The Read Up coalition, of which Readers 2 Leaders is a member, partners with **SMU's Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE)** for third-party evaluation of program success. SMU CORE found that Read Up students were **10 times more likely** to improve their reading from the beginning of the year to the end of the year for every 10 hours of programming they attended. This tremendous result is what we are pursuing for all students in Dallas.

