



PA ChamberTM
Foundation

**The Pathway to a Skilled Workforce
is through Academic Success**

Presented by:

**The PA Chamber Foundation &
READ ALLIANCE**

PA Chamber Foundation

- The mission of the PA Chamber Foundation is to
 - support research and education programs that positively impact Pennsylvania's competitiveness, infrastructure, workforce development, and equality of opportunity.
 - Make PA a top state in the nation to do business.

Pennsylvania's Literacy Challenges

- Results of the 3rd grade PSSA indicate that nearly 50% of PA children are struggling to read.
 - Third grade reading levels are one of the most reliable predictors of future achievement.
 - Students unable to read by 3rd grade are at high risk of not finishing high school/dropping out.
- PA ranks 24th in the % of adults who have low literacy (18% of the adult population).
- 2 in 9 counties in PA have populations where 20% or more are below basic in literacy.

Low Literacy Levels...

- Hinder PA's economic competitiveness.
- Create losses in the economy. Estimates suggest that the U.S. economy loses \$2.2 trillion annually due to low literacy.
- Are associated with poor health, low levels of civic engagement, and lower levels of labor market participation and earnings.
- Are a strong indicator for reliance on public assistance.
- Contribute to an underperforming workforce.

How can PA begin to address its literacy challenges?

Recognize that third grade literacy is a workforce development issue.

Adopt policies and implement programs that increase early literacy proficiency.

Evidence-Based Program Working in Berks County

Local collaboration with Read Alliance (READ), NYC-based literacy-focused nonprofit.



READ ALLIANCE

Mission:

Read Alliance works to accelerate the educational trajectory of early elementary students through the power of teens who provide one-to-one literacy tutoring in under-resourced communities.



READ ALLIANCE



What is READ's Impact?

- Since 2000, more than **20,000 READers** and more than **18,000 Teen Leaders** served by Read Alliance.
- **85% of READers** who complete the program improve more than a grade level in reading.
- More than **95% of Teen Leaders** improve in at least one Social and emotional learning competency related to post-secondary success and all gain valuable workforce development skills.
- For FY23 in New York and Pennsylvania
 - READ enrolled **1404 READers**, of which **more than 600 improved** more than one grade level in reading.
 - Nearly **800 Teen Leaders** were employed earning more than \$500,000 in wages.

How does the Read Alliance Dual Impact Model Work?

- One-to-one tutoring using an evidence-based phonics curriculum Reading for All Learners Program (RALP).
- Teens trained as individual literacy tutors using leveled books and decoding strategies from the RALP curriculum.
- Teachers trained in phonics curriculum & assessment tools.
- Program takes place in the elementary school; Teen Leaders travel to the school
- Conducted after school for 45 sessions, 3-4 days per week
- Each session is 90 minutes: each reader receives 45 minutes of one-to-one tutoring and 45 minutes of reading enrichment
- After 30 or more sessions, participation is considered complete based on study conducted by NYU

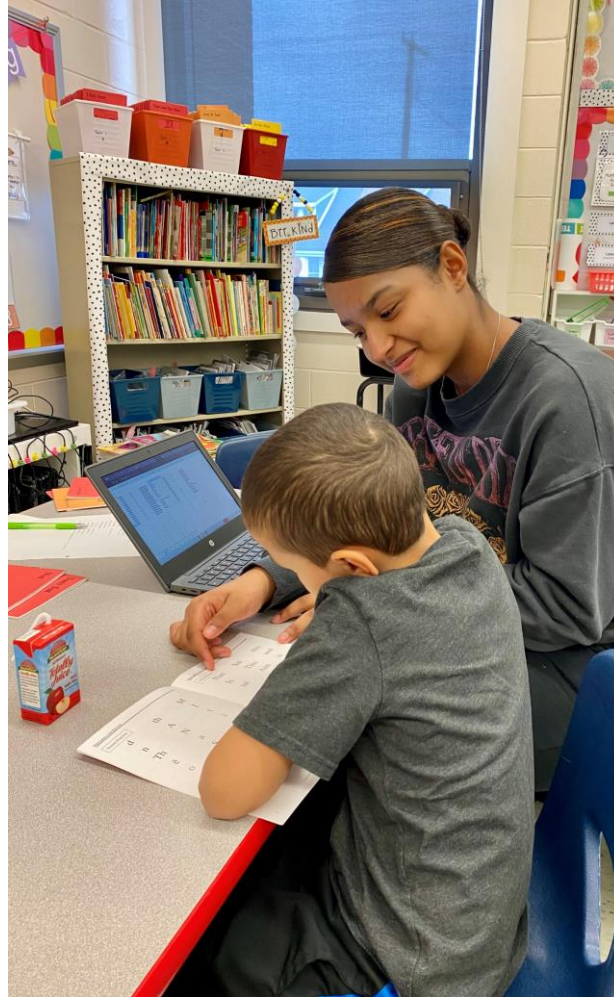
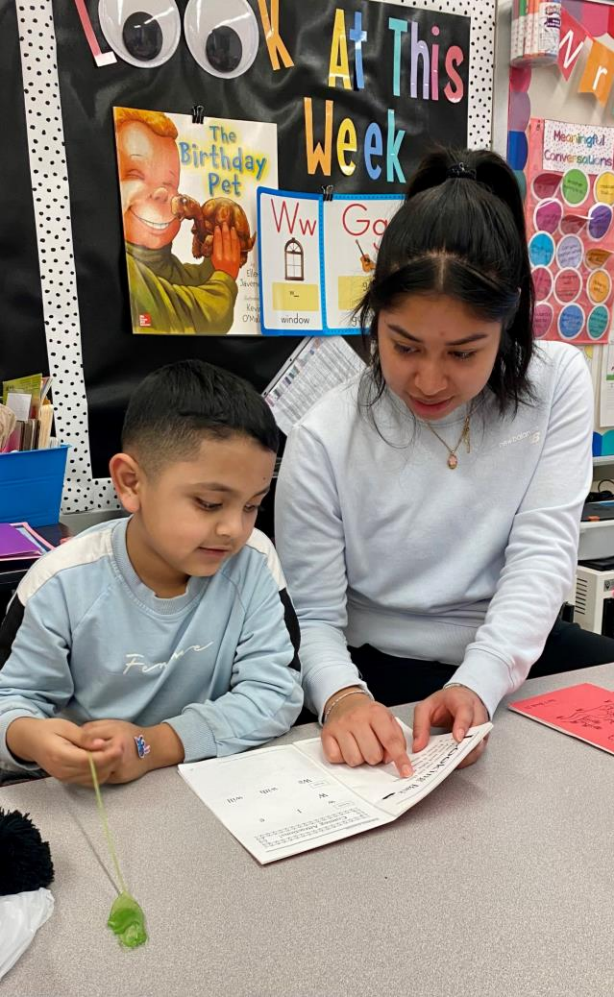


2023 Read Alliance Program

Reading School District First Graders:

Data based on 123 students from all 5 schools:

- The average site attendance rate is 85%, exceeding Read Alliance's overall attendance goal of 65%.
- Reading gains for all students is 1.12.
- The average starting grade level was 0.08, which is an early kindergarten level. Some cohorts started as low as 0.03 (13th and Green Elementary) and 0.04 (Riverside Elementary).



Paid Teen Tutors: The Secret Sauce for Increasing Literacy

2023 Read Alliance Program

Reading School District High School Students:

- Gave them more confidence in holding a job and interacting with others
- Started savings accounts with Visions Credit Union
- Regular attendance in school
- Improved in academics
- Sparked a vision for post graduate plans and a career
- Earned High School Credit



Careers – Teacher Pipeline

30 Reading School District students enrolled in 2-year and 4-year post graduate program for teaching



**For more information about how to bring the
READ ALLIANCE model to your school district
and community, please contact:**

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