

FY2023 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

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|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| Organization Name: | Read to Succeed | |
| Project Name: | Equitable Opportunities for Literacy | |
| Reporting Quarter: (Check one) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 1 (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 2 (October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 3 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 4 (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023) |

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

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| Quarter 1 | <p>Summer Literacy R2S kicked off Q1 by continuing support at the Chosen PODS Summer Program at the Arthur R Edington Center. R2S reading teachers worked collaboratively with Chosen PODS staff to provide reading instruction for 60 students across three classrooms (K - 4). We taught and co-taught whole class and small group instruction of foundational literacy skills including phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. R2S also provided ongoing in-service training and lesson plan support to Chosen PODS staff in addition to outfitting classrooms with literacy supplies, reading games, culturally responsive books, and classroom storage solutions.</p> <p>We also partnered with Chosen PODS for a huge Summer Reading Carnival and foam party in August for 100+ students and families! In addition to book-themed carnival games, free books and take-home reading games (ie., Boggle, Bananagrams, Scrabble, Jr.), students, staff, and families enjoyed lunch from Daddy D's On Wheels and an ice cool treat from Kona Ice.</p> <p>R2S partnered with My Daddy Taught Me That (MDTMT) to host a community reading carnival in Pisgah View Apartments where MDTMT youth volunteered, families played games, kids enjoyed a foam party, picked out new books, colored custom phonics t-shirts, and more!</p> <p>R2S participated in several back-to-school events with school and community partners, including Claxton Elementary's Ice Cream Social , PEAK Academy's Back to School Night, United 4 Youth's Block Party, Maple Crest Community Night, BPF Community Playdate and more! At each event, we shared tons of free culturally-responsive children's books and reading resources with families.</p> <p>K-3 Tutoring & Literacy Support R2S trained 31 new and returning volunteer tutors who will support students through one-to-one tutoring twice a week at Johnston, Claxton, Chosen PODS, Children First, and Ira B. Jones this school year.</p> |
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Quarter 2**After-School Literacy Support**

Q2 saw the launch of R2S reading teacher support at the Chosen PODs After-School at the Arthur R. Edington Center, with five reading teachers serving students 2x/week in the K-2nd and 3rd/4th-grade classrooms (with help from three trained R2S reading tutors.)

In addition to one-to-one, small and whole-group literacy instruction, reading teachers also coordinated literacy-infused enrichment activities for students, including reading crafts and guest speakers. Teachers completed CORE Phonics assessments of K-4 students in October, which allowed them to identify and group students by skills areas and develop more targeted lessons.

R2S led weekly live read-alouds with 18 elementary students at the Children First learning centers in Pisgah View and Woodridge Apartments communities and provided monthly family reading newsletters and Winter Break Book Bundles to all of them.

R2S and community partners got to engage with hundreds of families in Q2 as well during two significant community events - Halloween at the Edington Center and the first annual Community Holiday Extravaganza in December. In addition to highlighting and supporting Black-owned businesses, the holiday event also celebrated Black literature with local author Jorge Redmond reading from his new book "Black Boy Black Boy" and sharing signed copies with participating families.

Elementary Tutoring

18 R2S reading tutors were matched and began tutoring 22 students at Claxton, Ira B. Jones and Johnston Elementary schools.

New Partnership

Finally, R2S is excited to formalize a partnership with PEAK Academy of Asheville, who serves a majority of Black students in K-3. On top of sharing more than 500 culturally-responsive books with families and teachers in Q2, R2S also plans to support literacy training for PEAK staff/volunteers, after-school literacy tutoring, in-class read-alouds, and more.

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| <p>Quarter 3</p> | <p>Literacy support at Chosen PODS After-School at the Arthur R. Edington Center grew in Q3, with additional trained reading tutors joining contracted reading teachers four days a week in the K-4 classrooms (~ 60 students). R2S completed a new set of progress monitoring assessments in Feb/March, tracking strong growth among K-4 students in phonemic awareness and phonics skills and equipping tutors and teachers with more insight to target instruction.</p> <p>Two new community members (both local parents) joined the R2S team to support programming. Ms. Toshia led 7 weekly read-alouds for 18 students at the PVA and Woodridge Learning Centers with Children First, and Ms. Nyeema began supporting K/1 students with Co-ED Jacque Hall and two trained tutors from My Daddy Taught Me That at Chosen PODS After-School.</p> <p>The R2S reading tutoring program at Johnston, Claxton, and Jones Elementary schools plus Chosen PODS After-School continued, with 11 new and returning tutors being matched with elementary students for the duration of the school year, bringing the number of total tutors to 29. R2S Co-Ed Jacque Hall and Elementary Literacy Director Olivia Fingold conducted a multi-weekend 6-hour training hosted by Tried Stone Missionary Baptist with 31 community members in Feb from that community, First Presbyterian Church, among others.</p> <p>R2S distributed culturally-responsive books and family reading resources at the LINKS Black Health Expo in Shiloh, co-hosted a film screening of a new literacy documentary engaging 55 community members, shared family reading newsletters with 18 Children First families and 60 Chosen PODS families, and recruited volunteers at the JLA Volunteer Expo.</p> |
| <p>Quarter 4</p> | <p>Q4 focused on community in a BIG way for R2S and its partners. In addition to increasing after-school support with K-4 students at Chosen PODS After-School, R2S also continued weekly live read-alouds with Children First/Communities in Schools. April saw a ton of spring break fun for local students (free culturally responsive book bundles, foam parties, worms, and more!) as well as additional community events, including film screenings of The Right to Read at UNCA and additional read-alouds from local author Jorge Redmond.</p> <p>Summer literacy support kicked off in June with 270 combined hours of training for 34+ staff members working at partner summer camps. R2S also contracted 6 new reading teachers to work at Chosen PODS three days a week starting in June. R2S said goodbye to Co-ED Jacquelyn Hall and hello to a new Co-Executive Director Ashley Allen, who previously sat as Board Secretary and worked in Asheville City Schools for ten years.</p> <p>Equity-centered professional development opportunities during this quarter included the Community Schools Conference in Philadelphia, H/R coaching with Nicole Norian, the Nonprofit Summit with Black Wall Street, and a planned Hood Huggers tour and anti-racist book study for the board of directors.</p> |

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Progress toward annual goals

| Measure | Annual Goal | Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter | | | | Progress |
|--|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 | |
| Number of school-age children participating in academic summer programming at Arthur R. Edington Center | 40 | 60 | N/A | N/A | 31 | 91 |
| Percent of school-aged children in summer program at Arthur R. Edington Center demonstrating growth in phonemic awareness and phonics skills | 25% | N/A* | N/A* | 81% | N/A* | 81% |
| Number of school-age children participating in summer reading programming/ summer reading events with community partners | 50 | 111 | N/A | N/A | 45 | 156 |
| Percent of school-aged children in R2S school-year reading tutoring program demonstrating growth in foundational reading skills | 75% | N/A** | N/A** | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Number of families participating in family literacy programs/events/workshops with community partners | 25 | 5 | 89 | 80 | 40 | 214 |

Comments:

*R2S resumed summer camp literacy support in late June 2023; reading teachers and tutors are assessing students in mid-July and then mid-August 2023 and we will be able to share more about student growth. 2022-2023 school year assessments from 6 students attending Chosen PODS that we were able to attain from ACS and BCS revealed that 100% moved up in their overall mClass composite score, 100% also increased their % of goal (national norm) achieved in phonics (decoding), and 83% increased their % of goal achieved in oral reading fluency.

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Report of use of funds to date and any budget considerations

| Spending Category | Starting | Total Spending (Enter Data) | | | | Amount |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 | |
| Personnel | \$ 68,000 | \$ 14,500 | \$ 15,100 | \$ 21,163 | \$ 17,238 | \$ - |
| Training | \$ 1,200 | \$ 30 | \$ - | \$ 328 | \$ 842 | \$ - |
| Supplies/Materials | \$ 2,000 | \$ 392 | \$ 1,525 | \$ 83 | | \$ (0) |
| Meetings | | | | | | \$ - |
| Equipment/Furniture | | | | | | \$ - |
| Printing/Marketing | \$ 1,600 | \$ 63 | \$ 113 | \$ 1,424 | | \$ 0 |
| Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions | | | | | | \$ - |
| Client Support | | | | | | \$ - |
| Contracts | \$ 2,100 | \$ 1,803 | \$ 298 | \$ - | | \$ - |
| Professional Services | | | | | | \$ - |
| Insurance and Bonds | | | | | | \$ - |
| Building Maintenance | | | | | | \$ - |
| Participant Incentives | | | | | | \$ - |
| Summer Reading Programming | \$ 8,000 | \$ 4,061 | | \$ 370 | \$ 3,569 | \$ (0) |
| Mileage Stipends | \$ 1,351 | \$ 270 | \$ 270 | \$ 405 | \$ 406 | \$ - |
| Total | \$ 84,251 | \$ 21,118 | \$ 17,306 | \$ 23,773 | \$ 22,055 | \$ 0 |

Comments:

Q4 Isaac Coleman Grant Report Copy

Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2023

Summary

Q4 focused on community in a BIG way for R2S and its partners. In addition to increasing after-school support with K-4 students at Chosen PODS After-School, R2S also continued weekly live read-alouds with Children First/Communities in Schools. April saw a ton of spring break fun for local students (free culturally responsive book bundles, foam parties, worms, and more!) as well as additional community events, including film screenings of The Right to Read at UNCA and additional read-alouds from local author Jorge Redmond.

Summer literacy support kicked off in June with 270 combined hours of training for 34+ staff members working at partner summer camps. R2S also contracted 6 new reading teachers to work at Chosen PODS three days a week starting in June. R2S said goodbye to Co-ED Jacquelyn Hall and hello to a new Co-Executive Director Ashley Allen, who previously sat as Board Secretary and worked in Asheville City Schools for ten years.

Equity-centered professional development opportunities during this quarter included the Community Schools Conference in Philadelphia, H/R coaching with Nicole Norian, the Nonprofit Summit with Black Wall Street, and a planned Hood Huggers tour and anti-racist book study for the board of directors.

In-Depth Narrative

Chosen PODS After-School - Arthur R. Edington Center

After-School Literacy Support

In Q4, R2S' team of five teachers (including R2S Co-EDS Jacquelyn Hall and Jess McLean) plus five volunteer tutors and three community contractors provided targeted support to small groups (3 - 5 students) of 60+ K-4 students four days a week at Chosen PODS After-School at the Arthur R. Edington Center. The team progress monitored students for phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency skills throughout the quarter to better inform lesson plans and literacy activities - using CORE Phonics, Easy CBM, among others. Community contractors completed training and were equipped to support small groups and students one-to-one in addition to leading live read-alouds and literacy arts activities each week.

School year assessments from 6 students attending Chosen PODS that we were able to attain from ACS and BCS revealed that 100% moved up in their overall mClass composite score, 100% also increased their % of goal (national norm) achieved in phonics (decoding), and 83% increased their % of goal achieved in oral reading fluency.

Spring Break Enrichment

During Spring Break 2023, Read to Succeed supported academic programming at the Center along with fun activities for all the students in attendance. Two volunteers (including an R2S board member) joined K-4 students from Buncombe County Extension Master Gardeners for hands-on lessons about all things worms! Students dissected gummy worms while talking about the life cycle of a healthy garden and got their hands dirty playing with real compost full of earthworms. Students also got to participate in literacy arts activities, learning about “value scales” in art with Lady Be (Robyn Baxter), and they enjoyed free Kona Ice, a foam party, and a magic show by children’s magician and local Black business owner Jesse Cowan.

Professional Development Meetings

Jacquelyn Hall and Jess McLean provided weekly staff meetings with 5-9 Edington staff members that focused on professional development and literacy topics. In two of these meetings, they viewed “The Right to Read,” a newly-released documentary portraying the literacy crisis as the civil rights issue of our time, showcasing schools, families, and literacy advocates that mirrored the support given daily at the Edington Center.

In May, Edington staff was asked to provide feedback on these professional development meetings, sharing what they had learned and what they were interested in doing more of. The majority of nine respondents shared that they had learned more about being patient and using Word Attack strategies (like tapping out words) when it comes to working with students on Foundational Reading Skills. They expressed wanting to learn more tools to support young readers and more fun, interactive games to make learning enjoyable.

End of Year and Summer Planning

To celebrate the end of the school year and start of summer, Read to Succeed purchased water games like a “slip-n-slide” for students to enjoy and sponsored Daddy D’s food truck for the final day of school.

In a summer planning meeting with the Edington and R2S staff, we solidified a summer camp timeline (June 19 - Aug 18, 2023) along with the number of students enrolled to start thinking about the best classroom by grade level breakdown. We also worked on a schedule for R2S support, including contracted reading teachers, community contractors, and volunteers, and agreed upon three days of academic support per week over the summer.

Summer Support Training

Before summer camp began, a team of R2S staff and trainers held three days of workshops for four hours each day at the Edington Center with 25 Chosen PODS summer camp staff. R2S provided breakfast and lunch each day to fuel the team-building and learning experience. Over the three-day training period, multiple trainers covered behavior management, literacy arts, positive behavior incentive systems (PBIS,) best practices for live read-alouds, goal setting, and more.

On a followup survey, 100% of 13 responding Edington staff members indicated they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “The training provided me with practical strategies to think about and set goals for myself, my team, and my classroom this summer. 100% also responded

they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I would recommend R2S for future workshops with Chosen PODS."

To strengthen classroom support during the academic block over the summer, R2S recruited six additional reading teachers to join the team. On June 26th, summer support began with students returning to the Center and the R2S team starting to build relationships and build academic blocks. During this time we ordered classroom supplies for each classroom in the Edington Center, including carpets, posters, art supplies, and materials to enrich the summer camp experience.

Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County

Weekly Read-Alouds

R2S team member, Toshia Sitton, led seven live read-aloud experiences in Q4 at both the Woodridge and Pisgah View learning centers with the students at Children First/Communities in Schools. During these sessions, Toshia engaged students in discussion about character motivations and feelings, along with word games and enrichment activities that provided a deeper understanding of the story.

Spring Break Book Bundles

R2S designed, developed, and delivered 20+ Spring Break book bundles for all students at both learning center sites that contained brand new culturally responsive books, family reading resources, a spring-themed word search, and a fidget toy.

Summer Planning & Training

The R2S and Children First teams met to discuss summer planning and support, agreeing to host a summer training for CF staff about how to enhance summer programming with literacy-rich environments, supporting their academic development over the summer. Co-ED Jess McLean, R2S board member and incoming Co-ED Ashley Allen, and Elementary Literacy Director Olivia Fingold held a training session for the summer staff at Children First in their learning center next door in Pisgah View. They workshoped best practices for infusing summer camp with vocabulary support, showed staff how to utilize phonological awareness games during waiting times, and did a high-level overview of the functions of behavior at play when students' needs arise.

Elementary Tutoring & Literacy Support

In Q4, R2S strengthened student support across school sites and celebrated our volunteers for their commitment to community-powered literacy in Asheville. We invested in opportunities that allowed our network to learn more about the literacy crisis and what we can do to address it and better support students.

In addition to continuing 1:1 tutoring sessions 2x/week through the end of May at Claxton, Johnston, and Jones ES, R2S volunteer reading tutors also attended continuing education

sessions in Q4, a volunteer appreciation lunch in April, and a wrap-up volunteer meeting in May. Elementary Literacy Director Olivia Fingold and Reading Specialist Carley Stein also conducted a second round of observations for the school year.

After receiving end-of-year mClass results from students enrolled in the tutoring program, we learned that from the beginning-of-year to end-of-year assessments, 100% of students' composite scores (aggregated data across all foundational reading skills) increased, with the median percentage increase being 36%.

100% of students tested in Phonemic Awareness (the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words) demonstrated growth. 94% of students also showed growth in Phonics (correlating sounds to letters and decoding text) when comparing the % of goal achieved from beginning of year to % of goal achieved at the end of year on their mClass report. For example, 3rd-grader C. Williams scored 4 out of 24 on the Decoding portion of the mClass assessment at the beginning year, effectively achieve 17% of the nationally normed goal; at the end of the year in the same category, Williams scored 12 out of 31, achieving 42% of the nationally normed goal.

72% of students showed growth in Oral Reading Fluency (reading smoothly with prosody) from % of goal achieved at the beginning of year to % of goal achieved at the end of year on their mClass report.

Tutors, students, and teachers completed end-of-year surveys in May and June, sharing their feedback on the R2S reading tutoring program and sharing their appreciation for students' effort and tutors' commitment. 100% of tutors said they felt well supported or extremely well supported by R2S in their preparation for working with a student this school year.

R2S reading tutors branched out in Q4, volunteering additional hours at community and family reading events, including the Child Care for NC Rally, Spring Into Reading Family Night at the YWCA, and screenings of The Right to Read documentary at UNCA.

Tutors delivered Spring Break and end-of-year reading book bundles to students sharing brand new culturally-responsive books along with fun reading guides, activities, and small toys.

Program Feedback

As the school year came to an end, we created surveys for our students enrolled in the R2S tutoring program, their teachers, and our volunteer reading tutors to gauge their experience over the past year and provide a platform for program feedback. Our student survey utilized an emoji Likert scale with five emojis – beginning with a frown and moving toward a very happy face. 90% of student respondents (20 total) indicated that they felt good or very good about the experience of working with their reading tutor. Some notable comments about students' experience with tutors were, "My reading tutor is cool and kind and nice, and she a fun and cool person" and "That when I get stuck with a word he will help me," among others.

A teacher from Johnston Elementary said in a video testimonial, “Thank you to [the volunteer reading tutors] for adding to our school community here and for believing in our students as individuals, building relationships with them; our students love to meet with their tutors every week. You have gotten to know them as students and bring things into the lessons that meet their academic needs and help them grow as people.”

Each student received a book chosen by their tutor as an end-of-year gift, along with a fidget tool and eraser. 83% of tutors indicated that they would like to return to tutor again next year if possible, indicating the strong relationships built between tutors and students over the course of the school year. 100% of tutors said they felt well supported or extremely well supported by R2S in their preparation for working with a student this school year.

Additional Q4 Highlights

Co-ED Jacquelyn Hall submitted her resignation in May and officially wrapped up June 30, 2023, moving to a role as Operations & Finance Director at My Daddy Taught Me That. After a search and interview process with several high-quality candidates, the R2S board of directors ultimately voted to approve Ashley Allen as the new Co-Ed. In addition to serving as Secretary of the board for two years, Allen also brings 10 years of education and leadership experience working in Asheville City Schools and a deep passion for supporting Black children in their academic and reading journeys.

In Q4, R2S board and team members also participated in several more exciting opportunities, including the SPARC Creative Market, Peace Gardens 25th Anniversary, two screenings of The Right to Read documentary at UNCA, the Child Care for NC Rally, additional read-aloud visits by Asheville native and local author Jorge Redmond, and attendance at the Community Schools/IEL Annual Conference in Philadelphia. New Co-Ed Ashley Allen attended Black Wall Street’s Nonprofit Summit during GrindFest, and Allen and McLean began coaching sessions with local H/R coach Nicole Norian.

The R2S board of directors coordinated a summer tour with Hood Huggers and launched the start of an anti-racist book study featuring “Nice Racism” by Robin DeAngelo and “I’m Still Here” by Austin Channing Brown.