

FY2022 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

Organization Name:	Read to Succeed	
Project Name:	Equitable Opportunites for Literacy	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)
	X	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide brief responses that fit within the box provided

Overall project updates:	<p>Q3 saw the launch of the R2S literacy support plan in collaboration with the Arthur R. Edington Center, where 80 children attend afterschool. Under this program, R2S contracts two reading teachers (the “R2S Literacy Team”) who teach at the Edington Center along with Co-Ed Jaimee Stanley two to three times a week, conducting mini phonological awareness and phonics lessons for the K/1st, 2nd, and 3rd/4th classrooms.</p> <p>R2S provided Foundations and Heggerty curricula materials to each class, including letter/keyword/sound posters, alphabet strips, mobile whiteboards with letter cards, magnet tile boards, student activity books, Foundations letter writing paper, Heggerty phonemic awareness manuals, and more.</p> <p>Six lead Edington staff members also began meeting one hour per week with Jaimee Stanley for ongoing support and training. At meetings, staff members help assemble literacy centers for their classrooms, review student data and report cards, practice conducting Heggerty lessons, and collaborate on Word of the Week vocabulary-based activities. “Word of the Week” launched in March with Edington staff and R2S focusing on creating deeper experiences and background knowledge with students of high-interest vocabulary words with multiple meanings. The first week, for example, was “Tik Tok”; classrooms talked about the app as well as its homophone tick tock. Students also learned all about the bug, the “tick,” and completed activities comparing homophones “tock” and “talk.”</p> <p>The R2S team also built out the foundation of a “Reading Center Library” at the Edington Center with evidence-based FCRR and phonics/phonological awareness games volunteers and staff can regularly use with students. These games will live at the Edington Center in perpetuity for use this summer and in future school years.</p> <p>Four trained R2S reading tutors began supporting students, staff, and teachers at the Arthur R. Edington Center after-school program in February. Volunteers lead literacy centers with students, support Foundations lessons with teachers, provide homework help, and coordinate reading center materials for the K/1st, 2nd, and 3rd/4th classrooms.</p> <p>R2S literacy consultant Carley Stein, M.Ed. supported the Children First/Communities in Schools Buncombe County Deaverview Learning Center (which meets after school in the R2S office). Stein pulls small groups of four students identified for additional literacy support and conducts tutoring sessions twice a week with them. Stein has also modeled phonological</p>
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awareness and phonics lessons with the entire group of participating students and Children First staff.

R2S shared training videos and materials with Children First Learning Center Assistant Moriah Martin, who has worked with Stein to start leading Heggerty lessons with students independently. We also held a planning meeting between our organizations to discuss a full-staff literacy training for Children First in late May and continued literacy support during summer programming.

We started conversations about summer programming with the Edington Center and applied for funding to pay staff members to attend intensive literacy workshops the week before summer program launches. The goal is for these staff members to be able to lead daily phonics, phonemic awareness, and vocabulary lessons with their classrooms across the 8-week program.

R2S team members also met several times in Q3 with Hood Huggers International to discuss a community-based literacy initiative for the Burton Street community involving a youth-led free library project with a community event element.

Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:

Read to Succeed voted in seven new members to the Board of Directors in January, including a local ACS teacher, representatives from the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville and United Way, community activists, a volunteer reading tutor, ACS and BCS parents, as well as a H/R professional. Our total Board of Directors is now 13 strong, and we have more than tripled the representation of Black community members. This not only demonstrates our ongoing commitment to better reflecting the communities we serve but also more authentically and intentionally serving our mission to help close the race-based opportunity gap.

R2S staff attended the reception for the Western Carolina University Equity Summit as well as the CoThinkk March Mixer and NC PreK-12 Literacy and Equity Summit (virtual). At all three events, we were able to connect with other educators and community organizers working in the equity-centered education space.

Black Wall Street AVL honored R2S Co-ED Jaimee Stanley with the Asheville Black History Award for Community Leader in 2022. We are beyond PROUD of her and all the amazing family reading and community literacy initiatives she has spearheaded over the past year in Asheville and Buncombe County.

Finally, R2S onboarded two new team members during Q3, Jacquelyn Hall and James Ballard, both Black community members with nonprofit and community/family programming job experience. Growing our team authentically and centering Black voices in leadership and staff roles continues to drive our mission forward and strengthen our organization.

Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed FY20 and FY21 Financial Review with DeMario Black, CPA• Incorporated the use of a credit card into financial purchases to earn cash back• Contracted a community member to support literacy programming needs in our office - assembling literacy kits and reading centers, building free community libraries, organizing tutor supplies and books, etc.• Appointed two new board members as Secretary and Treasurer of the B13 Board of Directors• Welcomed a UNCA service-learning student who volunteers two hours a week in our office• Met with Just Economics to pursue Living Wage Certification for our organization• Participated in the Junior League of Asheville Volunteer Expo to recruit new volunteers and spread the word about our literacy programs• Staff attended the Association of Fundraising Professionals Webinar: “Non-profit and Local Government Relationships” with Buncombe County - Commissioner, Amanda Edwards• We completed six new grant applications to help fund programming for FY2023• Co-EDs met with Kathy Sikes, Director of the Duke NC LiteracyCorps, for a mid-year check-in regarding our AmeriCorps member; we shared with Kathy that we were planning to offer our AmeriCorps member a full-time position with benefits when she completes her service year
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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of school-age children participating in summer programming at Edington PODS	20	38	N/A	N/A*		38
% of school-aged children in summer program at Edington PODS demonstrating improved phonics, phonemic awareness, and fluency skills	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A*		0%
# of school-aged children participating in summer programming with community partners ACS, Children First, Youthful HAND	50	225	N/A	N/A*		225
% of school-aged children in R2S school-year reading tutoring program demonstrating improved literacy scores	75%	N/A	N/A	100%**		100%
# of families participating in family literacy programs/events/workshops with community partners ACS, Children First, Youthful HAND	10	150	33	25		208

Comments:

* Summer programming not actively occurring.

**Percentage of ACS/BCS students in the R2S tutoring program showing overall growth via the composite scores on their beginning-of-year (BOY) and middle-of-year (MOY) mClass reports. All but one of the students enrolled in the R2S tutoring program received BOY and MOY mClass assessments.

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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	\$ 13,250	\$ 19,250	\$ 21,821		\$ 13,679
Training						\$ -
Supplies/Materials (Books/Learning Supplies)	\$ 2,000	\$ 553	\$ 1,116	\$ 148		\$ 183
Meetings						\$ -
Staff Training (Original: Equipment/Furniture)	\$ 1,240	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 427		\$ 813
Printing/Marketing	\$ 1,000	\$ 405	\$ 335	\$ 227		\$ 33
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions						\$ -
Client Support						\$ -
Contracts	\$ 2,061	\$ 2,061	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Professional Services						\$ -
Insurance and Bonds						\$ -
Building Maintenance						\$ -
Summer Reading Programing	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,971				\$ 3,029
Mileage Stipends	\$ 1,350	\$ 338	\$ 338	\$ 338		\$ 338
Healthy Snacks	\$ 600	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 568
Total	\$ 84,251	\$ 21,609	\$ 21,039	\$ 22,961	\$ -	\$ 18,643

Comments: