

# FY2023 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Read to Succeed	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Equitable Opportunities for Literacy	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022)
	X	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023)
		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.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p><b>Summer Literacy</b></p> <p>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, BPFC Community Playdate and more! At each event, we shared tons of free culturally-responsive children's books and reading resources with families.</p> <p><b>K-3 Tutoring &amp; Literacy Support</b></p> <p>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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<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p><b>After-School Literacy Support</b> 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.)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Elementary Tutoring</b> 18 R2S reading tutors were matched and began tutoring 22 students at Claxton, Ira B. Jones and Johnston Elementary schools.</p> <p><b>New Partnership</b> 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.</p>
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<b>Quarter 3</b>	
<b>Quarter 4</b>	

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## Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				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			60
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*			0%
Number of school-age children participating in summer reading programming/ summer reading events with community partners	50	111	N/A			111
Percent of school-aged children in R2S school-year reading tutoring program demonstrating growth in foundational reading skills	75%	N/A**	N/A**			0%
Number of families participating in family literacy programs/events/workshops with community partners	25	5	89			94

### Comments:

\*R2S continues to support students from Chosen PODS Summer Program through Chosen PODS After-School. We are working with Chosen PODS to culminate and evaluate long-term data on their students, and will report on this Q3.

\*\*R2S reading tutors were not matched with students until Q2. We will report on this in Q3.

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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			\$ 38,400
Training	\$ 1,200	\$ 30				\$ 1,170
Supplies/Materials	\$ 2,000	\$ 392	\$ 1,525			\$ 83
Meetings						\$ -
Equipment/Furniture						\$ -
Printing/Marketing	\$ 1,600	\$ 63	\$ 113			\$ 1,424
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				\$ 3,939
Mileage Stipends	\$ 1,351	\$ 270	\$ 270			\$ 811
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 84,251</b>	<b>\$ 21,118</b>	<b>\$ 17,306</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 45,827</b>

**Comments:**

# Q2 Isaac Coleman Grant Report Copy

## Summary

### **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.

## In-Depth Narrative

### **Arthur R Edington Chosen PODs After-School**

R2S reading teachers began support for Chosen PODs After-School at the Arthur R. Edington Center in mid-September, with two reading teachers working in the Kindergarten - 2nd-grade classroom 2x/week and two reading teachers working in the 3rd/4th-grade classroom 2x/week.

In November, we added two additional trained R2S volunteer tutors to the K-2 classroom and another teacher and trained R2S volunteer tutor in the 3rd/4th classroom.

R2S reading teachers and volunteer tutors spent time building strong relationships with students and staff, helping with homework, playing get-to-know-you games, and reading together. They began providing instruction in foundational literacy skills, including phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension via whole group, small group, and one-to-one settings.

Student instruction and group/one-to-one lessons are informed by CORE Phonics assessments completed by R2S reading teachers and staff during September and October 2022. CORE Phonics assessments help instructors identify growth opportunities for students in recognizing letters and letter sounds, blending sounds, decoding one-syllable and multi-syllable words, etc. A small group R2S lesson with a reading teacher may look like letter/sound drills, building words and sentences together, reading a decodable text, playing a phonics- or phonemic awareness-based game, doing a literacy-based craft, etc.

R2S staff also conducted in-service trainings and lesson plan support with seven Chosen PODS staff members twice a month during this quarter. All staff members are paid \$25/hour for their time spent in professional development with R2S.

In November, special guests Mike Darity of Daddy D's On Wheels and Darius (Keevon) Baten of Mountain BizWorks joined the Chosen PODS 3rd/4th graders for a super fun entrepreneur exercise. Students explored new vocabulary words like "pitch," "entrepreneur," and "marketing," broke into groups, and put together business pitches to sell a Hershey's Kiss. Then every student got to invest money in the product they liked best.

R2S reading teachers have the opportunity to share additional comments/shining star moments when they complete their timesheets - some highlights include:

*"I listened to one of the fourth-graders read "Stacey's Extraordinary Words" by Stacey Abrams. While this student is on grade level with word level decoding and fluency, this book still offered a deep exploration into learning new vocabulary and practicing decoding multi-syllabic words. The student exclaimed that she really enjoyed reading the book and even went through reading every word on the final page, where Stacey wrote definitions for all her "extraordinary words."*

*"This week, our kindergarten students focused on letter identification by doing a letter hunt."*

*"I started bringing in Geodes with consonant blends to read in small groups with students (which they can also use for their reading log time)."*

R2S also partnered in Q2 with Chosen PODS for two significant community events. At Halloween, more than 30 families enjoyed hot chocolate and apple cider while playing fall reading-themed carnival games, doing crafts, getting faces painted, and going trunk-or-treating. 10 volunteers from R2S and My Daddy Taught Me That supported the event, and we also distributed culturally responsive books to all families in attendance.

In December, R2S co-hosted the first annual Community Holiday Extravaganza with the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville and Buncombe Partnership for Children. Over 175 people attended (an estimated 60+ families). This event highlighted BIPOC vendors selling gifts and stocking stuffers in a big holiday market and featured local Black author Jorge Redmond doing live read-alouds of his book "Black Boy, Black Boy." All attending families received curated literacy kits with signed copies of Redmond's book plus an additional culturally responsive book, comprehension guide, winter break activities, school supplies, and more. Black-owned businesses, including Chill Cereal Bar (who provided an awesome hot chocolate bar), Daddy D's On Wheels, and Cooking With Comedy, all provided food and drink for attendees (all costs covered by partners and sponsors).

40+ students in the Chosen PODS After-School who did not attend the event also received the curated literacy kit in after-school to take home before Winter Break.

R2S also contracted a new program liaison, Andrew Skinner, who recruited youth from My Daddy Taught Me That to train as volunteer reading tutors for K-4 students in the Chosen PODS After-School.

### **Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County (CF/CIS)**

R2S partnered with CF/CIS in Q2 to provide weekly read-alouds of culturally-responsive children's books to ~ 18 total students across the Pisgah View Apartments and Woodridge Apartments Learning Centers. After each read-aloud, R2S team member and local parent, "Mr. Divine," leads students in a literacy activity/game related to the book. R2S also provides monthly Family Reading Newsletters to each learning center with family reading tips, book recommendations, a fun literacy activity, and link to online reading resources.

Before Winter Break, R2S assembled curated literacy kits for all learning center students; kits included two children's books, a Winter Break word search, school supplies and toys, and a comprehension guide to keep students engaged in learning over winter break.

R2S and CF/CIS leadership met in November to discuss upcoming staff literacy trainings, spring family engagement opportunities, and possible R2S tutor placement at the learning centers.

### **PEAK Academy**

R2S is excited to formalize a new partnership with PEAK Academy of Asheville. After participating in curriculum night in October sharing family reading resources and books with families, R2S staff met with PEAK leadership in December to plan for more mission-aligned literacy support. R2S staff will provide phonemic awareness and phonics instruction training with



PEAK teachers and volunteers, after-school reading teacher/tutor support, as well as live read-alouds during the school day. R2S also hosted a culturally-responsive “Book Fair” for \*all\* PEAK teachers. Each teacher was allowed to select up to 50 unique books featuring Black characters and stories to help build their classroom libraries.

### **K-3 Tutoring & Literacy Support**

18 new and returning R2S volunteer reading tutors were matched and began one-to-one sessions twice a week with 20 students at Johnston, Claxton, and Ira B. Jones elementary schools and Chosen PODS After-School. A new group of six volunteer reading tutors trained in December and will be matched following additional coaching in February. Ongoing coaching and observations are provided by R2S Elementary Literacy Director Olivia Fingold and reading specialist Carley Stein, M.Ed.