

FY2024 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

Organization Name:	Read To Succeed	
Project Name:	Culturally-Responsive Community Literacy Support (CRCLS)	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
	X	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

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

Quarter 1	<p>Certified teachers (6), trained tutors (3), and R2S staff (3) continued summer support three days/week for 75+ PreK-5th grade students at Chosen PODS Summer Camp through mid-August. We finalized data collection in July to help identify student needs and inform lesson plans.</p> <p>R2S literacy support ranged from whole group to small group lessons - all focusing on strengthening foundational reading skills, including phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.</p> <p>R2S collaborated with Chosen PODS staff and introduced a structured Positive Behavior Incentive System (PBIS) in which students accumulated stars toward earned rewards, including ice cream sundaes in July and a trail mix bar in August.</p> <p>Guest reader Ms. Ann of Books Alive! and local storyteller Olympia Garrett joined students six times across July and August, engaging students in read-alouds of rich Black children’s literature like “Anansi the Spider,” with accompanying songs and activities.</p> <p>R2S joined Chosen PODS and Claxton Elementary in throwing a huge back-to-school bash in August at the Arthur R. Edington Center; over 100 families enjoyed dinner, carnival games, a bookmark-making station, free Black children’s books, a backpack giveaway, music, and more!</p> <p>R2S Co-Executive Directors Ashley Allen and Jess McLean presented a business proposal to Chosen PODS leadership in September, laying out a vision for deeper partnership and additional staff to grow the After-School and Summer Camp in the coming years.</p>
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Quarter 2	<p>Since late October, certified teachers (4), trained tutors (3), and R2S staff (5) supported 90 K-5 students in the Chosen PODS after-school program at the Arthur R. Edington Center. Teachers and tutors pull small groups of 3 - 5 students Monday through Wednesday for ~ 30 min. per reading group. From practicing letter-sound recognition to reading decodable texts to playing games exploring vocabulary and comprehension, reading groups all focus on foundational literacy skill development in a fun and engaging atmosphere.</p> <p>We streamlined coordinating duties in December and onboarded a site lead in the process of attaining teaching licensure. This site lead manages instructor/student schedules, distributes resources, provides instructor coaching and support, and manages communication between R2S and Chosen PODS, as well as provides direct instruction to student small groups.</p> <p>R2S joined Chosen PODS for three HUGE engagements in Q2 including Trunk-or-Treat in October, the 2nd Annual R2S Community Holiday Extravaganza in December, and an After-School visit with students by New York Times bestselling Black children's book author Derrick Barnes. The first two events featured carnival games, literacy activities, face painting, read-alouds, performances, hot cocoa, and more. The author visit engaged K-5 students with Derrick Barnes, who shared his journey to becoming a children's book author and read two of his latest books. All students received copies plus additional reading activities for Winter Break!</p>
Quarter 3	

Quarter 4	
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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	
# of reading teachers and tutors supporting small group and one-to-one instruction to K-5 students in Chosen PODS	10	12	6			18
% of K-2 students involved in tutoring who demonstrate growth in MClass Letter Naming, Phonemic Awareness, and Nonsense Word Fluency	50%	N/A*	N/A*			0%
% of 3-5 grade students involved in tutoring who demonstrate growth in MClass MAZE category	50%	N/A*	N/A*			0%
% of K-5 students who report increased motivation/confidence with reading throughout the school year	50%	N/A*	N/A**			0%
# of literacy-based enrichment experiences offered for Chosen PODS students/families	6	2	3			5

Comments:

*School districts and schools will collect MOY data at the start of Q3, allowing us to more clearly report on growth next quarter.

**R2S teachers and tutors started meeting with students in late Oct/early Nov and built relationship for about 6 weeks, we plan to survey in Q3 about their experience with reading, etc.

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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 - reading teachers	\$ 58,000	\$ 15,198	\$ 5,993			\$ 36,810
Personnel - R2S staff	\$ 39,000	\$ 6,331	\$ 7,519			\$ 25,150
Supplies/Materials	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,659	\$ 470			\$ 371
Event/Enrichment Program expenses	\$ 2,500	\$ 71	\$ 2,429			\$ (0)
Food/Meals	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,798	\$ 1,979			\$ 1,223
Total	\$ 107,000	\$ 25,057	\$ 18,390	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,554

Comments:

FY2024 Q2 Isaac Coleman Grant Report

Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2023

Summary (1500 characters)

Since late October, certified teachers (4), trained tutors (3), and R2S staff (5) supported 90 K-5 students in the Chosen PODS after-school program at the Arthur R. Edington Center. Teachers and tutors pull small groups of 3 - 5 students Monday through Wednesday for ~ 30 min. per reading group. From practicing letter-sound recognition to reading decodable texts to playing games exploring vocabulary and comprehension, reading groups all focus on foundational literacy skill development in a fun and engaging atmosphere.

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R2S joined Chosen PODS for three HUGE engagements in Q2 including Trunk-or-Treat in October, the 2nd Annual R2S Community Holiday Extravaganza in December, and an After-School visit with students by New York Times bestselling Black children's book author Derrick Barnes. The first two events featured carnival games, literacy activities, face painting, read-alouds, performances, hot cocoa, and more. The author visit engaged K-5 students with Derrick Barnes, who shared his journey to becoming a children's book author and read two of his latest books. All students received copies plus additional reading activities for Winter Break!

In-Depth Narrative

Since late October, certified teachers (4), trained tutors (3), and R2S staff (5) supported 90 K-5 students in the Chosen PODS after-school program at the Arthur R. Edington Center. Teachers and tutors pull small groups of 3 - 5 students Monday through Wednesday for ~ 30 min. per reading group. From practicing letter-sound recognition to reading decodable texts to playing games exploring vocabulary and comprehension, reading groups all focus on foundational literacy skill development in a fun and engaging atmosphere.

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R2S reading instructors and tutors shared comments on their monthly reports in November and December, including:

- *“The kids worked so hard on their banners with the information about themselves, they loved the glitter!”*
- *“K did a great job playing the literacy game and was super excited to try the different categories.”*
- *“The students played main idea games and did a great job thinking through their answers based off what they read.”*
- *“The students were very engaged in the Derrick Barnes book!”*
- *“H was not into the turkey activity and didn’t want to participate at first but he then did a great job choosing details from the story to support the main idea.”*
- *“T did an awesome job putting the sentences in order, then coming up with a second order that the words could go in when she finished early.”*
- *“Students read the ‘Draw a Rabbit’ decodable Geodes text, taking turns reading and then following the directions for drawing their own rabbits. They really engaged with the text, practiced re-reads for fluency, and exhibited a lot of pride with their beautiful drawings.”*

In addition to tutoring, after-school students participated in three additional community and family reading events in partnership with R2S and Chosen PODS at the Edington Center.

- **Chosen PODS Trunk-or-Treat** - In October, Edington hosted their Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. We recruited over 20 UNCA athletes to volunteer in addition to a member of Junior League Asheville. 175+ families attended this event and enjoyed face painting, Halloween carnival games, literacy centers, bookmark decorating, live read-alouds w/ Mrs. Ann of Books Alive!, cotton candy, hot cocoa and cider, and more!
- **Community Holiday Extravaganza** - R2S was honored to be in community with over 250 families and students at our 2nd Annual Community Holiday Extravaganza at the Arthur R. Edington Center. This event featured two Black-owned food trucks Dread Life Kitchen and Blessed Soul Food, local Black performer Virtuoso and DJ Big Wave, and nationally acclaimed children’s book author Derrick Barnes. We served hot cocoa and snacks and families played loads of fun literacy carnival games with prizes. Buncombe Partnership for Children hosted a cookie decorating table, and R2S gave away 100+ curated reading kits with Derrick Barnes’ new book Santa’s Gotta Go (purchased through Noir Collective, a local Black-owned store on The Block), comprehension guides, and a holiday toy. Derrick Barnes also read his book to families and signed copies! *Check out event highlights in this quick video:*
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hlwhg9ZsqL_Khvtq51jEidPldqBeQk-G/view?usp=sharing
- **Derrick Barnes Visits Chosen PODS After-School** - the day after the big community holiday event, Derrick Barnes visited more than 90 elementary students at Asheville PEAK Academy and another 100 (some of them overlapping from PEAK) at Chosen PODS After-School. Derrick read his books Santa’s Gotta Go and Like Lava in My Veins for students, took questions, and talked about his journey becoming a children’s book author. R2S provided brand new copies of his books for students to get signed and

curated literacy kits with custom comprehension guides and activities to do over Winter Break.

The R2S reading team continued the Positive Behavior Incentive System (PBIS) introduced over the summer, with small groups earning stars toward a shared reward. Students get to request rewards and have received treats including Starbucks drinks, snack foods, and treasure box items (slime, blocks, activity books, etc.)

Following up on the business proposal submitted to Chosen PODS leadership by R2S in September, we continued discussions with the team as well as a private funder. We are thrilled to announce that Chosen PODS is moving forward with R2S to recruit and hire an R2S-supervised After-School and Summer Camp Academic Director. Private funder Sutherland Foundation awarded R2S a grant to help fund this new position as well as provide for a leadership training by JM Leadership Development for R2S leadership, Chosen PODS management, and the new Academic Director (once they are hired).