

# FY2024 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

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

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<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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<p><b>Quarter 2</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Quarter 3</b></p>	<p>Since January, certified teachers (5), trained tutors (3), and R2S staff (5) served more than 300 combined hours supporting 90+ K-5 students in the Chosen PODS after-school program at the Arthur R. Edington Center.</p> <p>Teachers and tutors pull small groups of 3 - 5 students Monday through Wednesday for ~ 30 min. per reading group, focusing on foundational literacy skill development in a fun and engaging atmosphere.</p> <p>R2S was able to attain data for 24 students attending Chosen PODS who receive tutoring support. The following percentages indicate growth in each category of the mClass assessment.</p> <p>Letter Naming (LNF): 75.00% of students assessed for LNF demonstrated growth  Phonemic Awareness (PSF): 83.33% of students assessed for PSF demonstrated growth  Nonsense Word Fluency-Letter Sounds (NWF-CLS): 82.35% of students assessed for NWF-CLS demonstrated growth  Nonsense Word Fluency-Decoding (NWF-WRC): 70.59% of students assessed for NWF-WRC demonstrated growth  Basic Comprehension (MAZE): 50% of students assessed for MAZE demonstrated growth  Oral Reading Fluency (ORF): 100% of students assessed for ORF demonstrated growth</p> <p>R2S Co-Executive Directors Ashley Allen and Jess McLean led a hiring process for a new R2S/Chosen PODS Academic Director in Feb/Mar in partnership with Chosen PODS leadership Shaunda Jackson and Misty Beck.</p> <p>R2S also distributed monthly family reading newsletters to Chosen PODS families Jan - Mar, and delivered curated Spring Break Book Bundles to be shared with students the first week of April.</p>

<b>Quarter 4</b>	<p>Q4 saw the final stretch of the 2023-2024 school year and the kickoff of our biggest summer programming with Chosen PODS to date!</p> <p>April through mid-June, 12 instructors supported 90+ K-5 students in small reading groups and one-to-one tutoring sessions Mondays through Wednesdays. We also distributed curated Black children's book bundles to students over Spring Break and hosted a fun enrichment opportunity with Kona ice, lunch from Cooking with Comedy, and a petting zoo visiting the students.</p> <p>R2S was just able to attain data for 41 students attending Chosen PODS who received tutoring support. We are currently reviewing and analyzing End of Year data and will provide an updated analysis in the coming months. Anecdotally, we are thrilled to see "above average" and "well above average" growth in foundational reading skills, accordingly to the mClass assessment, for several students who participated in the program.</p> <p>In May, we started planning for academic time during Summer Camp with our new Academic Director and Chosen PODS leadership. We hired 11 new summer instructors, many licensed teachers and trained community members, and kicked off June with three back-to-back days of training and workshops with 28 summer camp staff from the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville. We provided breakfast, lunch, post-training materials, and all trainees received \$25/hr. for their time spent workshopping reading games, behavior management skills, and more. Summer Camp began June 17th, with instructors pulling small groups M-Th each week, building relationships with students, conducting assessments, and targeting lessons based on data.</p>
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## Progress toward annual goals

		Actual Results (Enter Data)				
		Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
Measure	Annual Goal	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	toward
# of reading teachers and tutors supporting small group and one-to-one instruction to K-5 students in Chosen PODS	10	12	6	1	10	29
% 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*	75%	0%	75%
% of 3-5 grade students involved in tutoring who demonstrate growth in MClass MAZE category	50%	N/A*	N/A*	50%	0%	50%
% of K-5 students who report increased motivation/confidence with reading throughout the school year	50%	N/A*	N/A**	80%	0%	80%
# of literacy-based enrichment experiences offered for Chosen PODS students/families	6	2	3	0	5	10

### Comments:

NOTE: R2S is still in the process of attaining end-of-year mClass data for Chosen PODS students who received tutoring support in after-school - we are working with NCDPI, Asheville City Schools, Buncombe County Schools and Asheville PEAK Academy to report on all students with permission slips.

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## Report of use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel - reading teachers	\$ 42,700	\$ 15,198	\$ 5,993	\$ 12,173	\$ 9,338	\$ -
Personnel - R2S staff	\$ 41,500	\$ 6,331	\$ 7,519	\$ 12,530	\$ 15,120	\$ 0
Supplies/Materials	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,659	\$ 470	\$ 371	\$ -	\$ (0)
Event/Enrichment Program expenses	\$ 10,500	\$ 71	\$ 2,429	\$ 1,984	\$ 5,725	\$ 291
Food/Meals	\$ 9,800	\$ 1,798	\$ 1,979	\$ 1,524	\$ 4,255	\$ 244
Total	\$ 107,000	\$ 25,057	\$ 18,390	\$ 28,581	\$ 34,438	\$ 535

### Comments:

# FY2024 Q4 Isaac Coleman Grant Report

Apr 1 - June 30, 2024

## Summary (1500 characters)

Q4 saw the final stretch of the 2023-2024 school year and the kickoff of our biggest summer programming with Chosen PODS to date!

April through mid-June, 12 instructors supported 90+ K-5 students in small reading groups and one-to-one tutoring sessions Mondays through Wednesdays. We also distributed curated Black children's book bundles to students over Spring Break and hosted a fun enrichment opportunity with Kona ice, lunch from Cooking with Comedy, and a petting zoo visiting the students.

R2S was just able to attain data for 41 students attending Chosen PODS who received tutoring support. We are currently reviewing and analyzing End of Year data and will provide an updated analysis in the coming months. Anecdotally, we are thrilled to see "above average" and "well above average" growth in foundational reading skills, accordingly to the mClass assessment, for several students who participated in the program.

In May, we started planning for academic time during Summer Camp with our new Academic Director and Chosen PODS leadership. We hired 11 new summer instructors, many licensed teachers and trained community members, and kicked off June with three back-to-back days of training and workshops with 28 summer camp staff from the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville. We provided breakfast, lunch, post-training materials, and all trainees received \$25/hr. for their time spent workshopping reading games, behavior management skills, and more. Summer Camp began June 17th, with instructors pulling small groups M-Th each week, building relationships with students, conducting assessments, and targeting lessons based on data.

## In-Depth Narrative

### Teaching, Tutoring, and Data

Since April, certified teachers (5), trained tutors (3), and R2S staff (4) 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, helping with homework, and playing games exploring vocabulary and comprehension, reading groups all focus on foundational literacy skill development in a fun and engaging atmosphere.

Even with Spring Break at the beginning of April and school ending at the beginning of June, tutors and instructors spent approximately 203 total hours working with Chosen PODS students in Q4.

R2S is still in the process of attaining end-of-year mClass data for Chosen PODS students who received tutoring support in after-school - we are working with NCDPI, Asheville City Schools, Buncombe County Schools and Asheville PEAK Academy to report on all students with permission slips.

We look forward to sharing an updated data analysis on student growth in the coming months.

R2S reading instructors and tutors shared comments on their monthly reports in Jan, Feb, and Mar:

- *"Prior to walking down to our work space two of my boys, Sincere and Kash, had 'pinkie-promised' they would work hard and not fuss with each other (as they usually do). Everything was going well and Aleesha 'popped' in to say Hi & check in. I introduced the boys and asked them if they wanted to read for her. They rocked it! (And got rewarded with bubblegum)."*
- *"My 2nd grade boys finished the chapter book we have been working on. They are working on a high level in comprehension and I am looking forward to a writing exercise next week."*
- *"Group d was very creative with their writing responses to the frog and toad story!"*

R2S' new Academic Director Tashni Chamberlain began April 1, 2024, getting to know students, families, and Chosen PODS staff, meeting regularly with the After-School and Summer Camp Director, and planning for staff training in June and the start of summer camp.

## Chosen PODS Student Feedback

We revamped our student survey for the start of summer camp to better align with the five pursuits as laid out in Dr. Ghody Muhammad's "Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy" - identity, skills, intellect, criticality, and joy. education.

R2S instructors conducted surveys with students the first couple weeks of camp and we will re-survey students at the end of camp. Survey questions ask about how often students see themselves represented in the things they read (identity), whether they feel safe making mistakes when learning (criticality), if they enjoy reading (joy), if they feel confident about improving their reading skills (skills), and what helps them learn (intellect).

## PBIS, Hiring, & Training

We continued the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system with small groups earning stars toward a shared reward. Students get to request rewards and receive treats, including new books, croc charms, bracelet making kits, graphic novels, and more.

In May and June, Co-Executive Directors Ashley and Jess and Academic Director Tashni Chamberlain interviewed and hired 11 new instructors to support students at Chosen PODS Summer Camp M - Th, from June 17th through August 16th, 2024. Instructors include licensed teachers from our local schools, trained instructional assistants, and college-age community members studying education.

R2S conducted a three-day training for 28 Chosen PODS staff (and staff supporting students in summer camp at PVA) - we provided breakfast and lunch each day and focused on topics taken directly from staff surveys conducted at the end of the school year. Behavior and classroom management, literacy activities, instructional routines, safety protocols, and reading games were all covered in a workshop style setting at the Arthur R. Edington Center, as well as large group get-to-know-you games with all camp staff PLUS 16 R2S staff and summer instructors.

All trainees were paid \$25/hr for their time spent training with R2S (covered by a private funder), and R2S also helped provide First Aid/CPR certification training through the Red Cross.

### **Attendees completed a quick survey following the training - results included:**

On a scale of 1 to 5 for the following questions, 100% of respondents (18) answered with a 4 or higher:

- The training provided me with practical strategies or activities for supporting learning during summer camp.
- I understand the four functions of behavior (attention, escape, access, sensory needs) more than I did before this training?
- The training provided me with practical strategies or activities to manage student behaviors in my classroom.
- The training provided me with practical strategies to create incentives/rewards systems for my classroom.
- The training provided me with practical strategies for supporting regulation with myself and my students.

When asked to list 2 activities they plan to use to support literacy during summer camp, respondents wrote:

- Read aloud, categories
- The puzzle games, and the color reward system
- Snap it up and the ABC game
- Opposites puzzle and compound working puzzle
- Mindfulness activity and compound contest



- The last sound of a word and make a new word with the last sound, and clapping syllables
- Going on walks and making slime
- Playing games, drawing
- Sounds game where you say a word then the next person starts their word with the last sound of the first word
- Opposites game
- Snap it up and 5 letter to make a sentence
- Opposite word game and syllable game
- name game and categories
- "The games we played I don't remember the names And mindfulness "
- The educational games and benefits of mindfulness.
- Ice breaker and sing a long
- This and that and the dice game

Additional survey feedback included:

- "VERY HELPFUL!"
- "[The trainers] did amazing!"
- "You guys do an amazing job at what you do and come up with new strategies for not only us but for other future teachers as well thank you some much!!"
- "I enjoyed the training"
- "Yes, I benefited from this experience and I would love to get follow ups."

## Student Enrichment and Resources

R2S delivered family reading newsletters to Chosen PODS families each month in Q4; newsletters feature a recommended Black children's book with QR code linking to a live read-aloud; an age-appropriate literacy activity, announcements about upcoming events, and important reminders and ideas for families to promote literacy at home. We also delivered more than 70 Spring Break Book Bundles the first week in April; book bundles include *Like Lava In My Veins* by Derrick Barnes with a custom comprehension guide, additional books, a small toy, and additional resources.

Spring Break 2024 was full of lots of FUN and learning too - students enjoyed an egg hunt, Kona Ice, a petting zoo where they learned about animals like alpacas, rabbits, and goats, and marble art with local Black artist and magician Jesse Cowan. As June rolled around, we also provided a foam party and dinner from Cooking with Comedy for the last day of school!!! Check out fun pictures here >

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KCbY1WG2lzvgfqoIAK\\_TaZGweDmgZiZ?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KCbY1WG2lzvgfqoIAK_TaZGweDmgZiZ?usp=drive_link)