

# FY2022 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Organization Name:</b>                | Read to Succeed  |   |
| <b>Project Name:</b>                     | Community-Powered K-3 Literacy   Engaging Children, Families, and Community Partners |   |
| <b>Reporting Quarter:</b><br>(Check one) | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021) |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)    |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)       |

## Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide brief responses that fit within the box provided

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Overall project updates:</b> | <p>Read to Succeed tutors continued to work with students in Q3 in Jones, Johnston, and Claxton Elementary Students. 20 tutors served a total of 44 students between Jan 1 and Mar 31, 2022. Of students enrolled in the R2S reading tutoring program during that time, 25 identify as Black, 4 white, 6 Hispanic, 1 Pacific Islander, 6 Mixed, and 2 did not specify race on their permission form.</p> <p>Across grade levels, students enrolled in the R2S reading tutoring program in Q3 include 4 fourth graders, 11 third graders, 17 second graders, and 12 first graders. *Note: R2S is serving 4th-grade students this year both by request of our school partners as well as in an effort to accelerate learning for students who were especially impacted when COVID struck during the middle of the second-grade year.</p> <p>Following winter break, tutors resumed working with students during the school day at Johnston Elementary and after school at Claxton Elementary. Ira B. Jones Elementary closed the school to volunteers during January due to the Omicron-related COVID spike and staffing shortages at the school. Tutoring sessions occurred one to two times per week, with the average session lasting 45 minutes.</p> <p>We saw a drop in student participation in our K-3 tutoring program due to both the Johnston Elementary After-school (YMCA) and Ira B. Jones Elementary After-school programs closing due to staffing shortages. Most students who were being served in after-school did not have availability for tutoring during the school day. We also had multiple tutors opt out of the program mid-year due to health complications and/or lack of comfort with in-person tutoring when the Omicron variant spiked in January and February.</p> <p>Co-ED's Jaimee Stanley and Jess McLean met in-person with all tutoring program school partners to review MOY mClass data that came in for students in late February/early March. Across the board, R2S saw growth in foundational reading skills from the beginning of year (BOY) to middle of year (MOY) tests. 91% of students showed growth in Phonemic Awareness, the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. 93% of students showed growth in Phonics, correlating sounds to letters and decoding text. 93% of students also showed growth in Fluency, reading smoothly with prosody.</p> |
|---------------------------------|--|

The data also informed schedule changes to select tutoring groups, with some students who showed significant improvement graduating out of our services. This allowed R2S tutors to tighten up their small groups and, in many cases, shift to one-to-one tutoring with students identified for continuing support.

We held monthly Tutor Huddles in January, February, and March for tutors to come together by placement site and receive continuing education, review MOY data, and obtain more resources for their tutoring sessions.

Carley Stein, M.Ed. continued to consult as a literacy specialist, largely overseeing support of reading tutors placed at Jones Elementary.

We grew our Resource Library with Kindergarten and 1st grade sets of Geodes decodable texts for tutors to use in their sessions. Geodes are currently in use in ACS and BCS schools and offer more intentional background knowledge-building and diverse readers to engage students in practicing key phonics skills. We also provided evidence-based FCRR literacy games to tutors to use in sessions and materials to support advanced phonics skills practice as students make progress, i.e., r-control, vowel team, and glued sound letter/keyword/sound sheets, tutorial videos, and letter tiles.

**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.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Activities related to increasing operational excellence:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed FY20 and FY21 Financial Review with DeMario Black, CPA</li><li>• Incorporated the use of a credit card into financial purchases to earn cash back</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Appointed two new board members as Secretary and Treasurer of the B13 Board of Directors</li><li>• Welcomed a UNCA service-learning student who volunteers two hours a week in our office</li><li>• Met with Just Economics to pursue Living Wage Certification for our organization</li><li>• Participated in the Junior League of Asheville Volunteer Expo to recruit new volunteers and spread the word about our literacy programs</li><li>• Staff attended the Association of Fundraising Professionals Webinar: “Non-profit and Local Government Relationships” with Buncombe County - Commissioner, Amanda Edwards</li><li>• We completed six new grant applications to help fund programming for FY2023</li><li>• 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</li></ul> |
|---|--|

# FY2022 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Organization Name:</b>                | Read to Succeed  |   |  |
| <b>Project Name:</b>                     | Community-Powered K-3 Literacy   Engaging Children, Families, and Community Partners |   |  |
| <b>Reporting Quarter:</b><br>(Check one) | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)   |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021) |  |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)    |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)       |  |

## Progress toward annual goals

| Measure   | Annual Goal | Actual Results (Enter Data) |           |           |           | Progress |
|---|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|   |             | Quarter 1                   | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 |          |
| Number of volunteer reading tutors trained and matched                      | 30          | N/A                         | 30        | 0*        |           | 30       |
| Percent increase in Black students served                                   | 32%         | N/A                         | 40%       | 0%        |           | 40%      |
| Percent of students trained by tutors who improve phonemic awareness skills | 75%         | N/A                         | N/A       | 91%       |           | 91%      |
| Percent of students who improve phonic development skills                   | 75%         | N/A                         | N/A       | 93%       |           | 93%      |
| Percent of students who improve reading fluency                             | 75%         | N/A                         | N/A       | 93%       |           | 93%      |

### Comments:

\*We did not train and match additional volunteer tutors this quarter, and some volunteers opted out of tutoring mid-year due to COVID risk increasing with new sub-variants. However, we did have volunteers who stayed with our program in 2022 pick up multiple students and tutor extra days.

# FY2022 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Organization Name:</b>                | Read to Succeed  |   |  |
| <b>Project Name:</b>                     | Community-Powered K-3 Literacy   Engaging Children, Families, and Community Partners |   |  |
| <b>Reporting Quarter:</b><br>(Check one) |  | Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)   |  |
|  |  | Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021) |  |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)    |  |
|  |  | Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)       |  |

## 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                                | \$ 25,000 | \$ 6,250                    | \$ 6,250  | \$ 6,250  |           | \$ 6,250 |
| Training                                 |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Supplies/Materials                       |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Meetings                                 |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Equipment/Furniture                      |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Printing/Marketing                       |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Client Support                           |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Contracts                                |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Professional Services                    |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| Insurance and Bonds                      | \$ 2,000  | \$ 381                      | \$ 1,619  | \$ -      |           | \$ (0)   |
| Building Maintenance                     |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| List other cost                          |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| List other cost                          |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| List other cost                          |           |                             |           |           |           | \$ -     |
| <b>Total</b>                             | \$ 27,000 | \$ 6,631                    | \$ 7,869  | \$ 6,250  | \$ -      | \$ 6,250 |

**Comments:**