

FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Read to Succeed	
Project Name:	Positive Experiences Around Reading (PEAR)	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	X	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
		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>R2S kicked off Q1 with incredible engagement across multiple family and community events and literacy enrichment activities.</p> <p>In July, we kicked off a new partnership with Asheville PEAK Academy, beginning with supplying 100+ culturally-responsive book bundles for students in the Read to Achieve summer camp. Two Black community members also joined students during the camp to lead read-alouds of Black children’s books, exploring vocabulary and comprehension questions together. In September, R2S and PEAK launched a library chaperone program where K-5 PEAK students visit the West Asheville Library accompanied by their teachers, R2S staff, and volunteers.</p> <p>R2S hosted and participated in more than 8 community/family events in Q1, distributing more than 700 books and engaging 400 families with literacy resources and activities. Events included read-alouds with Books Alive! at Chosen PODS summer camp, United 4 Youth Block Party, Edington Back to School Bash, Hillcrest Head Start Open House, Johnston Elementary Summer Institute, Youthful HAND end-of-summer celebration, and Claxton Ice Cream Social Family Night.</p> <p>We also made significant progress in building out a revamped Resource Library at the R2S office filled with hundreds of evidence-based literacy activities, books, and teaching/tutoring materials. A majority of the resources were cataloged in a new inventory management system by the end of the first quarter, with plans to barcode them in October so teachers, partners, and tutors could begin checking items out to use with students.</p>
------------------	--

Quarter 2	
Quarter 3	

Quarter 4	
------------------	--

FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Read to Succeed	
Project Name:	Positive Experiences Around Reading (PEAR)	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	X	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
	0	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
	0	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
	0	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of culturally responsive books and family reading resources delivered	1000	700				700
# of season Book Bundles distributed through community partnerships	200	150				150
# of visits to school, after-school, and/or summer partners by Black children's book authors or guest readers	10	9				9
# of school/partner-based community or family reading events and workshops	10	8				8

Comments:

FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Read to Succeed		
Project Name:	Positive Experiences Around Reading (PEAR)		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	X	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)	
	0	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)	
	0	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)	
	0	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)	

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	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,090				\$ 4,910
Travel	\$ 800					\$ 800
Supplies/Materials	\$ 2,000	\$ 440				\$ 1,560
Meetings	\$ 2,000	\$ 414				\$ 1,586
Printing/Marketing	\$ 1,000	554.29				\$ (526)
Contracts/Vendors	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,526				\$ 2,474
Insurance and Bonds	\$ 1,000	\$ 368				\$ 632
Culturally Responsive Books	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,774				\$ 6,226
Total	\$ 26,800	\$ 8,165	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,635

Comments:

FY2024 Q1 Strategic Partnership Grant Report

July 1 - Sep 30, 2023

Summary (1500 characters)

R2S kicked off Q1 with incredible engagement across multiple family and community events and literacy enrichment activities.

In July, we kicked off a new partnership with Asheville PEAK Academy, beginning with supplying 100+ culturally-responsive book bundles for students in the Read to Achieve summer camp. Two Black community members also joined students during the camp to lead read-alouds of Black children's books, exploring vocabulary and comprehension questions together. In September, R2S and PEAK launched a library chaperone program where K-5 PEAK students visit the West Asheville Library accompanied by their teachers, R2S staff, and volunteers.

R2S hosted and participated in more than 8 community/family events in Q1, distributing more than 700 books and engaging 400 families with literacy resources and activities. Events included read-alouds with Books Alive! at Chosen PODS summer camp, United 4 Youth Block Party, Edington Back to School Bash, Hillcrest Head Start Open House, Johnston Elementary Summer Institute, Youthful HAND end-of-summer celebration, and Claxton Ice Cream Social Family Night.

We also made significant progress in building out a revamped Resource Library at the R2S office filled with hundreds of evidence-based literacy activities, books, and teaching/tutoring materials. A majority of the resources were cataloged in a new inventory management system by the end of the first quarter, with plans to barcode them in October so teachers, partners, and tutors could begin checking items out to use with students.

In-Depth Narrative

R2S hosted and participated in more than eight community/family events in Q1, distributing more than 700 books and engaging 400 families with literacy resources and activities. Both the SunStone Project and Writers Who Run donated new and gently used books during Q1, which we used in combination with books we purchased to distribute to families at events.

Events included:

- **R2S Guest Readers @ Asheville PEAK Academy** - 100 K-5 students attended Read to Achieve summer camp at PEAK in July. They were joined by two guest readers from R2S in July who led live read-alouds of Black children's books with students and

explored vocabulary, comprehension, and letter sounds. All students attending camp also received a curated literacy kit from R2S featuring diverse age-appropriate children's books, reading resources, and a small toy.

- **Books Alive! w/ Ms. Anne at Chosen PODS** - Ms. Anne joined Chosen PODS three times in July and August to engage K-2 students in live read-alouds of multiple children's books accompanied by songs, puppet shows, and more!
- **Storyteller Olympia Garrett @ Chosen PODS** - local storyteller Olympia Garrett joined K-5 students across three days in August at Chosen PODS summer camp to explore the story of Anansi the Spider together, build spider crafts, and dance!
- **United 4 Youth Block Party** - R2S joined tens of other community partners, local organizations, youth performers, food trucks, and more for this huge back-to-school bash in August. R2S shared hundreds of Black children's books with attending families and partners and hosted a bookmark-making station for students!
- **Beer City Cup** - R2S celebrated all things literacy and soccer at Beer City Cup, sharing culturally-responsive books (many soccer-themed) with families and soccer-inspired phonics games like a soccer ball letter match! We additionally created a blog article on our site highlighting soccer kids books featuring Black main characters.
- **Festival of Neighborhoods** - R2S connected with families and neighborhood organizations at MLK, Jr. Park, sharing Black children's books, a bookmark making station, and *new* literacy games, including a fall-themed uppercase/lowercase letter match.
- **Chosen PODS/R2S/Claxton Back to School Bash** - R2S collaborated with Chosen PODS and Claxton Elementary's Social Justice League to put on a huge back-to-school bash. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Administration for Asheville City Schools, rocked the house as DJ; Claxton provided yard games, bounce houses, volunteers, walkin' tacos, popsicles, and a backpack giveaway; R2S engaged families in making bookmarks, playing carnival games, and enjoying dinner from Black-owned caterer Cooking With Comedy; and Chosen PODS helped spread the word to students and families.
- **Hillcrest Head Start Open House** - In July, R2S team members joined Community Action Opportunities staff to celebrate the reopening of the Hillcrest Headstart! In addition to bringing Kona Ice to the neighborhood for free icees, R2S also distributed literacy kits to attending families - kits included "M Is for Melanin" by Tiffany Rose, an accompanying letter formation activity, additional reading resources, and a small toy. R2S Co-ED Ashley Allen played games with toddler and PreK students, practicing letter recognition and fine motor skills.
- **Johnston Elementary Summer Institute** - R2S staff and volunteers joined Johnston Elementary teachers and staff for the third day of their summer institute. Set up in the playground area behind Deaverview Community Center, R2S brought Kona Ice, free books and reading resources, a bookmark-making station, and ring toss game for families to enjoy.
- **Youthful HAND end of summer celebration** - R2S Co-ED Ashley Allen wrapped up teaching at Youthful HAND's summer camp in mid-August and helped organize an end-of-summer celebration featuring a magic show by local Black magician Jesse

Cowan, ice cream cups from Jeremiah's, a sidewalk book fair, and walkin' tacos provided by a Hillcrest resident.

- **Claxton Ice Cream Social Family Night** - in September, R2S Community Engagement Coordinator Toshia Sitton was joined by Co-EDs Jess and Ashley, sharing 100 diverse children's books with families attending the ice cream social. R2S reading tutors also serve at Claxton, and we were able to share more information about this partnership with parents and family members.

Testimonials from partners:

"Thank you guys so much for partnering with Asheville PEAK Academy and our Read to Achieve Camp. We truly appreciate you guys sharing literacy book bags, reading, and just being present with our scholars today. You guys are amazing! I look forward to even more partnerships with you guys this upcoming year. Please extend our gratitude to the guest readers who did an amazing job in engaging our scholars, and sharing little nuggets of knowledge with them."

- *Camesha Minto, Director of Instruction & Testing Coordinator, Asheville PEAK Academy*
-

". . . Thank you all so much for your help and support with our amazing Back to School Bash on Friday! It was so awesome, and I'm so appreciative to each of you for your help."

- *Monica Kohler, Kindergarten Teacher & Event Volunteer Coordinator, Claxton Elementary*
-