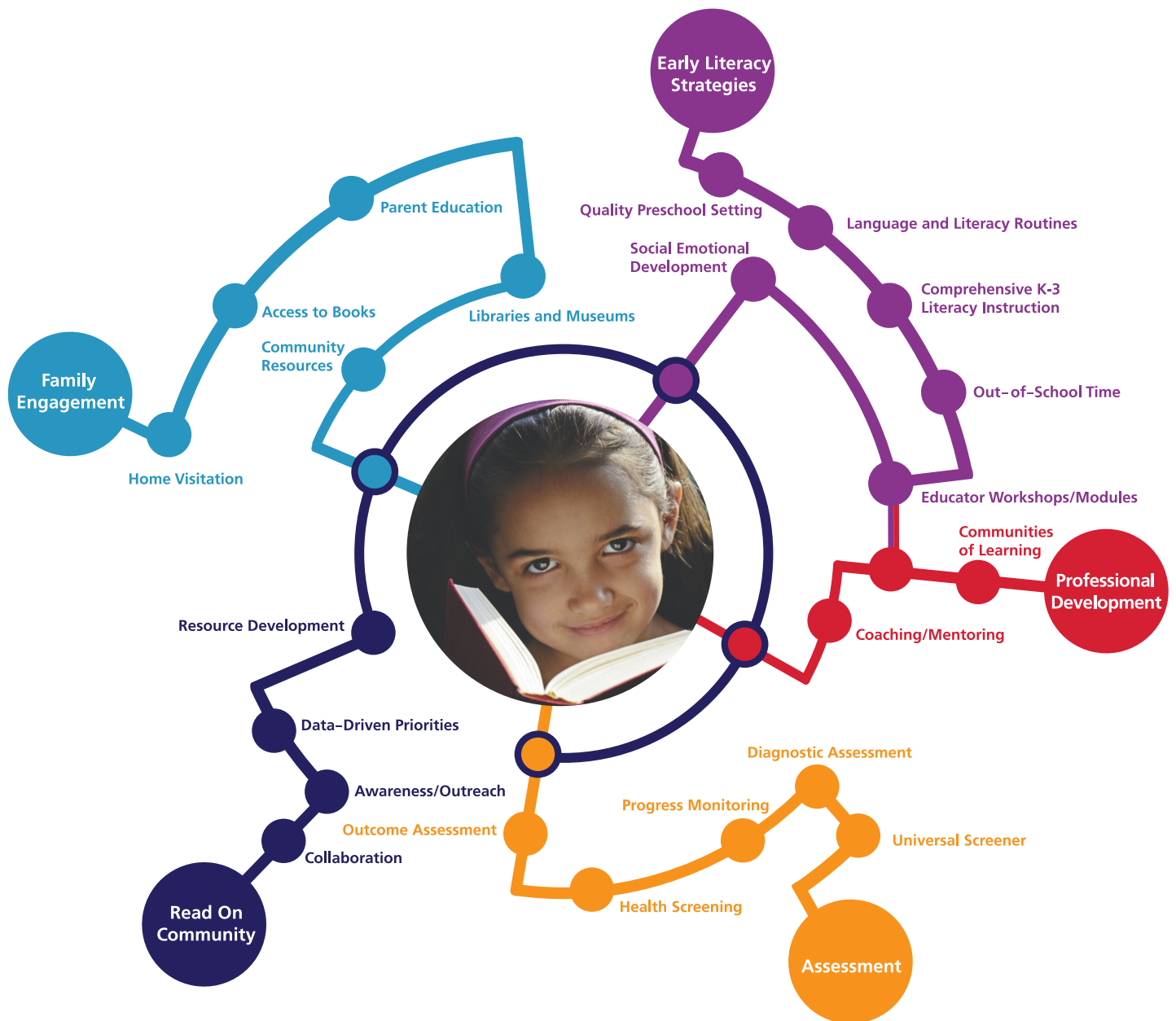




2015 Impact Report



Advancing Early Literacy Outcomes for Arizona's Children Birth Through Age 8

What We Know About Early Literacy

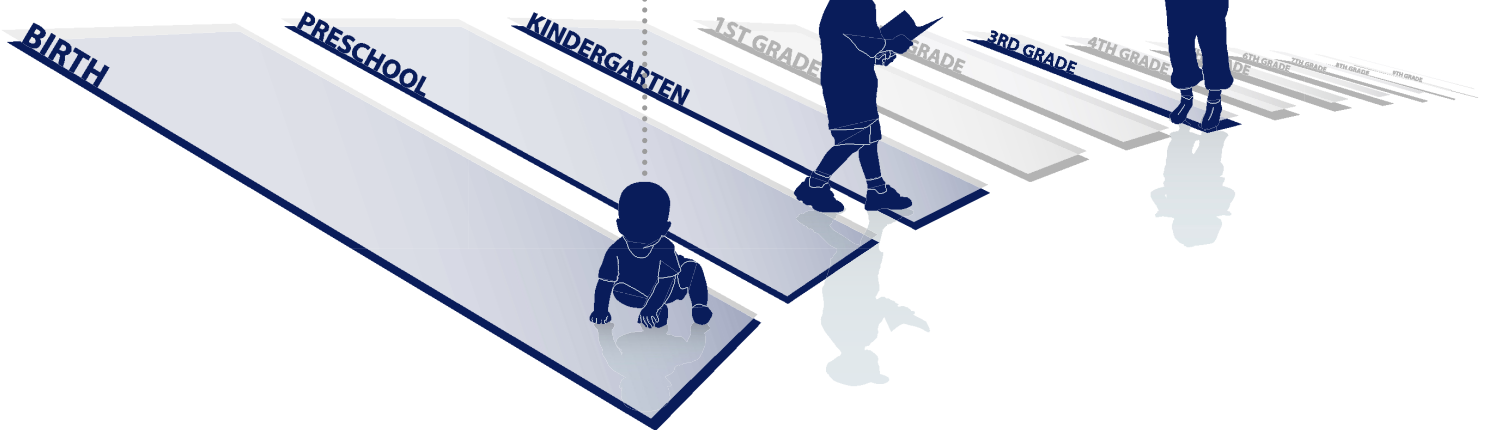
“Academic success, as defined by high school graduation, can be predicted with reasonable accuracy by knowing someone’s reading skill at the end of third grade. A person who is not at least a modestly skilled reader by that time is unlikely to graduate from school.”

— *National Research Council
The National Academies*

The educational achievement gap starts well before kindergarten—disparities in language development emerge in infancy and widen as children grow older.

By age 4, children from low-income families hear vastly fewer words than their more affluent peers.

Literacy and language skills begin to develop from birth, and early language abilities are directly related to later reading abilities.



Reading proficiency involves the ability to read the words on the page, and more importantly, to make meaning from the words.



Children entering kindergarten without the skills they need to succeed in school rarely meet the critical milestone of reading proficiently by third grade.



Third-grade reading levels are strong predictors of ninth-grade course performance, high school graduation, and college attendance.

A Snapshot of Arizona's Early Literacy Crisis

- Arizona has more than 750,000 children between the ages of birth and age 8.
- Only 33% of Arizona 3 and 4 year olds are enrolled in preschool, among the nation's lowest rates of enrollment.
- In Arizona, 84% of low-income children read less than proficiently.
- 11% of students in Arizona miss 18 or more days in a school year. Students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are less likely to reach proficiency by the time they finish third grade.

"Ensuring that all children in Arizona enter kindergarten ready to succeed and read at grade level by the end of third grade must be a priority for our state. We appreciate the leadership that Read On Arizona is taking to create a statewide early literacy system that is helping us move toward that goal. We simply must address this issue and increase the language and literacy skills of our students—our future depends on it."

— **Paul J. Luna, president and CEO,**
Helios Education Foundation

Type of Student	% Below Basic/Basic	% Proficient/Advanced
Native American/ Alaska Native	92	8
Economically Disadvantaged	84	16
Hispanic	81	19
Black	78	22
White	49	51
Asian/Pacific Islander	53	47
Arizona Students	72	28

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 4th Grade Reading, 2013

- Arizona is one of many states that has a mandatory third-grade retention policy—Move On When Reading (ARS 15-701).
- In 2014, Arizona adopted a new statewide assessment, AzMERIT, that raises the bar for proficiency.¹

3rd Grade Reading in Arizona

AzMERIT English Language Arts % of Students Spring 2015	Minimally Proficient	Partially Proficient	Proficient	Highly Proficient
Grade 3	44%	15%	31%	10%

¹Arizona Department of Education, AzMERIT: Reading Estimate Projections, 2015.



High school students
not graduating/*not* ready
for college
Four-year graduation rate: 77%

Source: Arizona Department of Education, 2012

Workforce Implications

Read On Arizona Overview

“Large-scale change requires broad cross-sector collaboration, and that’s where Read On Arizona shines. By bringing together expertise from businesses, public agencies, nonprofits, and philanthropies, Read On Arizona is tackling the early literacy crisis. The collaborative has improved student success in several key areas and produced an impressive array of resources and tools for the community in a very short period of time.”

— *Susan M. Pepin, M.D., president and CEO, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust*

Success in addressing the early literacy crisis will require ensuring that young children in Arizona have strong learning experiences from birth through third grade, rich in literacy and language acquisition at school, at home, and in the community.

The key to Arizona’s future is a statewide, community-based literacy initiative. Educators, families, businesses, public agencies, philanthropy, and communities all have a role to play. Only when early literacy becomes everyone’s responsibility will we have the kind of impact and change we need to see Arizona thrive.



MISSION:

Read On Arizona is a statewide public/private partnership of agencies, foundations, and community stakeholders who are committed to a collaborative approach to improving language and literacy outcomes for Arizona’s children from birth through age 8.

“Arizona One of Eight States Honored as ‘Pacesetter’ in Early Reading Work,”
Campaign For Grade-Level Reading,
April 2015

OUR VISION FOR ARIZONA IS SIMPLE YET AMBITIOUS:

- All students enter school ready to learn.
- All students read at or above grade level by the end of third grade.
- All students graduate from high school being college- and career-ready.

To achieve our goals, Read On Arizona has created a 10-year strategic plan that highlights the most common challenges to early literacy and builds on state-level work as well as local communities of practice that establish baselines, set targets, track results, and promote shared accountability.

Connecting to the Arizona State Literacy Plan, a road map to improve language and literacy outcomes, Read On Arizona is the catalyst to the bold but achievable goal of reading success for all of Arizona’s children because when Arizona reads, Arizona thrives.

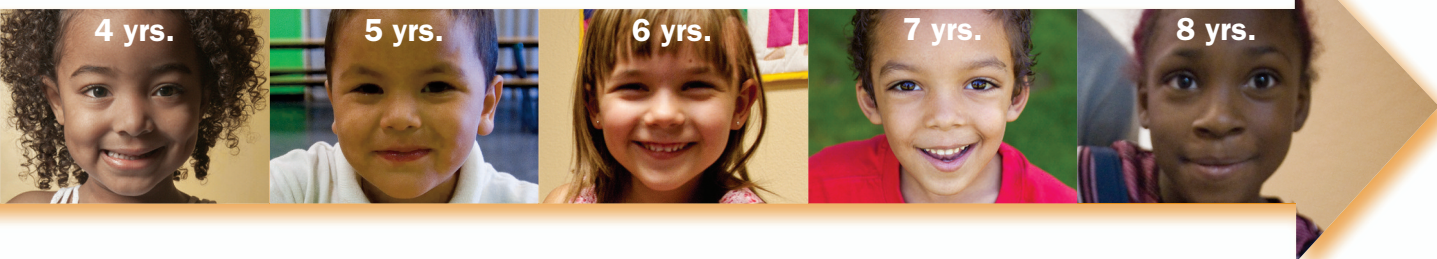
"Tucson Mayor Hopes to Enlist 500
New Reading Coaches,"
Arizona Daily Star,
August 2013

"Adults Encourage Students to 'Read On,'"
Nogales International,
March 2014

"Arizona State Library, Read On Arizona
Promote Reading During Summer Break,"
East Valley Tribune,
July 2015

"Because a variety of groups in the community
are brought together through the Read On effort,
they are able to pool limited resources, join
together to implement effective practices, and
have a greater impact than they would alone.
Working together, we can move the needle to
ensure that Arizona's youngest citizens have
access to high-quality early care and enter
kindergarten ready for school and ready for
success."

— **Associate Superintendent Carol Lippert**,
Arizona Department of Education



BUILDING AN EARLY LITERACY FRAMEWORK:

- **COLLABORATION**
Stakeholders work in coordination and alignment for collective impact.
- **DATA INTEGRATION**
Use data to assess gaps and allocate resources and efforts toward results.
- **EFFECTIVE LITERACY PRACTICES**
Identify and implement evidence-based strategies to provide the right program, at the right time, for each child:
 - o Early Literacy Strategies
 - o Professional Development
 - o Screening/Assessment
 - o Family Engagement
- **AWARENESS**
Increase understanding of importance of early literacy among families, communities, and stakeholders.

READ ON ARIZONA: BY THE NUMBERS

- 1** Umbrella initiative to serve ages birth through third grade to advance early literacy outcomes
- 24** Read On communities
- 500+** Partners involved in Read On Arizona and local Read On communities
- 728** Schools involved in Read On Arizona local efforts
- 253,314+** Low-income children reached by Read On Arizona communities
- 150,000** Copies of *Early Literacy Guide for Families* distributed through partners
- 581,300** Hours read over the summer of 2014
- 5%** Increase in ALL students passing the AIMS third-grade reading assessment since 2012
- 8%** Increase in ELL students passing the AIMS third-grade reading assessment in 2014

Advancing Early Literacy—Challenges and Solutions

“Read On Arizona is helping local communities throughout Arizona build coalitions that elevate literacy as an educational priority, fill gaps in vital student services, and scale effective practices. The Read On approach allows each community to take the lead so that they can determine what works best for their schools and students.”

— **Steve Seleznow, president and CEO,**
Arizona Community Foundation

Challenge 1: Lack of communication and coordination between efforts

Read On solution: Create and utilize the Read On communities network, a collaborative effort in each community to fill the literacy gaps.

Read On Communities Network:

A network of communities that make early literacy a priority and foster a collaborative process to inform the selection of evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes with collective goals, strategies, and benchmarks.

Impact Strategies

Read On communities are connected to technical assistance and have access to research and learning forums and a network to share evidence-based approaches and innovative solutions. Strategies are designed to respond to each of the core challenges and focus on strengthening and scaling existing interventions and replicating what works.

Read On Communities to Date



- Avondale
- Balsz
- Buckeye
- Bullhead City
- Chandler
- Cochise County
- Copper Corridor
- Flagstaff
- Globe/Miami
- Goodyear
- Greater Surprise
- Hualapai
- Mesa
- North Gila County
- Phoenix
- Riverside
- Roosevelt
- Sahuarita
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Santa Cruz County
- Scottsdale
- Tempe
- Tucson
- Yuma

To bring Read On Arizona to your community, download a toolkit at ReadOnArizona.org.

Challenge 2: Lack of information about critical factors involving early literacy

Read On solution: Improve data integration and system linkages; focus on shared data and accountability systems.

Data Integration and System Linkages Task Force:

This group informs the collective work of all Read On Arizona stakeholders by devising strategies for improvement through data integration, research, and evidence-based solutions. Undertaking a data pilot, the task force moved forward with a data inventory and audit, and identified more than 25 indicators that impact early literacy. Public data ranging from third-grade reading outcomes to early childhood/preschool and health data were identified.

Snapshot of Success

A key partner in presenting this data was Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), which helped map the data sets for the entire state. MAG's mapping capabilities made it possible to present the shared data sets in a robust statewide mapping tool that includes an impressive array of data that has never before been presented in this way. The partnerships among Read On Arizona, MAG, and other state agencies have blazed a trail for how to visually use data to inform decision-making.



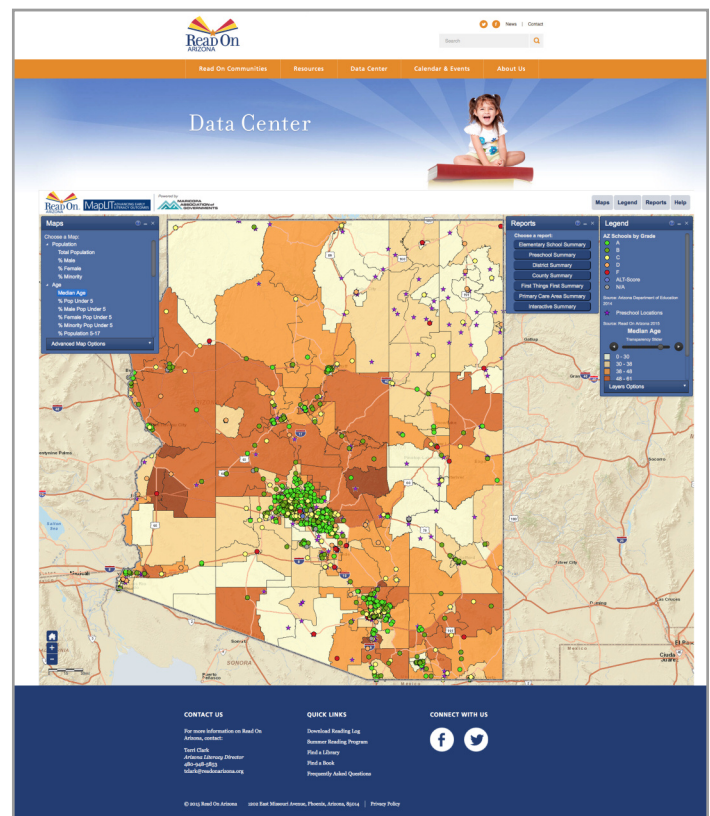
MapLIT is intended to support strategic planning to improve language and literacy outcomes for all Read On Arizona communities.

Examples of encouraged use include:

- Identifying neighborhoods with high need and low service, using the literacy data map
- Exploring or tracking improvement over time, using tools from the data center
- Sharing information with Read On community partners and decision-makers to inform strategic planning centered around improving early language and literacy outcomes
- Presenting on the challenges and opportunities in the community with would-be partners
- Demonstrating need for additional resources in a grant or other proposal, with proper citations

“The world is accessible through reading and writing, and children’s potential to be contributing citizens of a democracy can only happen if they are thoughtfully engaged. Read On Arizona has taken each part of this enormous task and peeled it back to action. This is a point of pride and hope for Arizona.”

— Dean Mari Koerner, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University



Advancing Early Literacy—Challenges and Solutions

“Our partnership with Read On Arizona has helped us take our commitment to language and literacy development to the next level and offered us tools to ensure that professionals working with families on behalf of First Things First receive consistent training and resources to support early literacy in their early childhood practice.”

— **Sam Leyvas, CEO, First Things First**

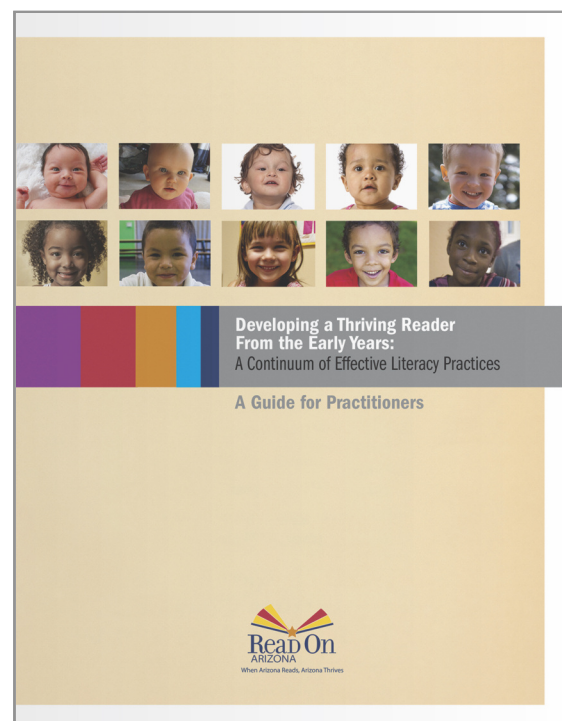
“Read On Tempe has helped us broaden the conversation with all of our stakeholders about the importance of early literacy and has given a louder voice to the sense of urgency we have as a society to ensure that all children have the tools they need to succeed.”

— **Superintendent Christine Busch, Tempe Elementary District**

Challenge 3: Insufficient access to programs that work

Read On solution: Offer a continuum of effective literacy practices tool.

Continuum of Effective Literacy Practices Task Force: Formed in the early part of 2013 to identify the components necessary to develop and strengthen literacy and language acquisition along the continuum, this group focuses on providing the right program, at the right time, for each child. The *Developing a Thriving Reader: A Continuum of Effective Literacy Practices (A Guide for Practitioners)* publication is the framework that connects the work across the state between agencies and Read On communities. Districts, early childcare sites, and home-visitation programs are using the publication to train educators and staff on key components.



Advancing Early Literacy—Challenges and Solutions

Challenge 4: Lack of awareness and attention given to early literacy

Read On solution: Increase community awareness and engagement.

Communication and Community Outreach Working Group: Advises on and supports Read On Arizona's communications efforts and strategies.

Publications

Since forming, Read On Arizona has created several publications to help parents, educators, and community members contribute to early language and literacy efforts. Together, the following publications provide resources, tools, and information to strengthen and support the literacy of Arizona's children.

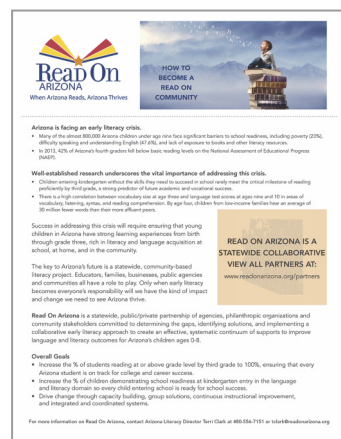
- *Read On Arizona 10-Year Strategic Literacy Action Plan*
- *Early Literacy Guide for Families*
- *Developing a Thriving Reader From the Early Years: A Continuum of Effective Literacy Practices*
- *Building Blocks to Becoming a Reader*
- *Routes to Grade-Level Reading*
- *How to Become a Read On Community toolkit*

“Summer 2015 marks the third year of the statewide summer reading collaboration between the Arizona State Library, Read On Arizona, and their partner organizations. Kids, teens, and adults are exploring books, community programs, and learning opportunities at their local libraries and via summerreading.org. Together, we're keeping everyone reading and preparing Arizona students for a successful school year.”

— **Joan Clark, state librarian**

“In a very short amount of time, Read On Arizona has emerged as the key driver in getting stakeholders working together and focused on what works. And that's essential to building the early literacy system we need in Arizona and really improving outcomes for our children.”

— **Ginger Ward, CEO, Southwest Human Development**



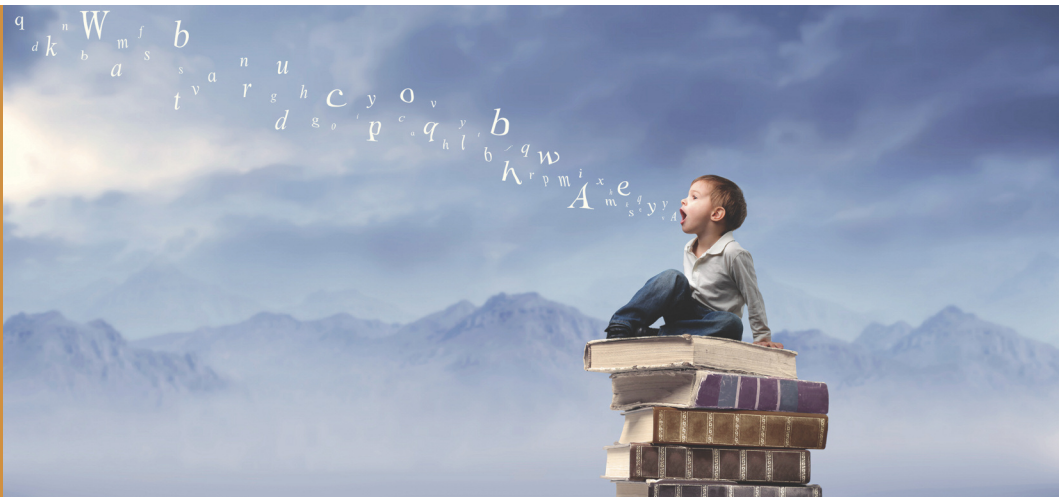
Snapshots of Success

- Summer Reading Collaborative: Read On Arizona partners encourage families to read with their child at least 20 minutes every day and to visit their local library. In 2014, nearly 120,000 participants took part and 59,827,255 minutes were read.
- In June 2015, a PSA by Governor Ducey and Mrs. Ducey highlighted the importance of summer reading.

Thank you to Make Way For Books for contributing graphic design expertise to the *Routes to Grade-Level Reading* publication.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Because reading is the foundation for success in school and life and is critical to Arizona's economic future, more than 500 partners—at the state level and in dozens of Arizona communities—are working together to advance early literacy as part of Read On Arizona. Here is a partial list of our partners.



AARP Experience Corps
Abriendo Puertas
Alhambra Elementary District
Always Dream Foundation
Arizona Academy of American Pediatrics
Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Arizona Board of Education
Arizona Business & Education Coalition
Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence
Arizona Charter Academy
Arizona Charter Schools Association
Arizona Community Foundation**
Arizona Department of Education**
Arizona Head Start Association
Arizona K-12 Center
Arizona Literacy and Learning Center
Arizona, Office of the Governor
Arizona Parent Teacher Association
Arizona State Library
Arizona State University, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
Arizona's Children Association
Ash Creek School District
Association for Supportive Childcare
ATI Online
Avondale Elementary School District
Balsz Elementary School District
BASIS Charter Schools
Benevilla Family Resource Center
Bisbee Unified School District
Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation
Boys & Girls Club
Buckeye City Council
Buckeye Elementary School District
Buckeye Family Resource Center
Buckeye Public Libraries
BUILD Arizona
Bullhead City, City Manager's Office*
Bullhead City Elementary District #15
Cartwright Elementary District
Catholic Charities

Cave Creek Elementary District
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Education Foundation
Chandler Unified School District
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.
Children's Action Alliance
Children's Museum of Phoenix
City of Avondale*
City of Buckeye*
City of Chandler*
City of Flagstaff
City of Goodyear*
City of Mesa, Mayor's Office*
City of Nogales
City of Phoenix, Mayor's Office*
City of Scottsdale
City of Sierra Vista
City of Surprise, Youth Services
City of Tempe, Mayor's Office
City of Tucson, Mayor's Office
Cochise County Office of Education*
Coconino Coalition of Children and Youth
Coconino County Superintendent of Schools
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
Copper Corridor Economic Development Coalition
Crain Elementary School District
Creighton Elementary District
Deer Valley Unified School District
Destiny Schools
Diamondback Elementary PTO
Diamond Family Foundation
Dignity Health
Douglas Unified School District
Dysart Unified School District
Easter Seals Blake Foundation
Educare Arizona
Eight, Arizona PBS
Expect More Arizona
Experience Matters
First Book
First Focus on Kids Coalition

First Things First**
First Things First Regional Partnership Council–Cochise*
First Things First Regional Partnership Council–Gila County*
First Things First Regional Partnership Council–Hualapai Tribe*
First Things First Regional Partnership Council–Pinal Region*
First Things First Regional Partnership Council–San Carlos Apache*
Flagstaff Unified School District
Flowing Wells School District
Fowler Elementary School District
Freeport McMoran
Friends of the Surprise Libraries
Ft. Huachuca Accommodation Schools
Gila County Library District
Gila County School Superintendent
Globe/Miami Chamber of Commerce
Globe/Miami Times
Globe Unified School District
Goodyear City Council
Grand Canyon University
Greater Phoenix Leadership
Hayden Public Library*
Hayden/Winkelman Unified School District
Head Start, Hualapai
Helios Education Foundation**
Hualapai Department of Cultural Resources
Hualapai Education and Training Department
Human Services Department, Maricopa County–Head Start
Intel
International Dyslexia Association–AZ
Isaac Elementary School District
Jumpstart
KPMG
Kyrene School District
Laveen Elementary School District
LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc.
Legacy Foundation
Liberty School District

“All evidence points to third-grade reading as a key milestone for future success, and also that children develop language and literacy skills from birth. Read On Arizona is fueling partnerships in communities across the state to more effectively support Arizona’s children with the resources they need to be successful readers. That’s how change happens, when everyone has the shared responsibility to ensure that our children thrive.”

— *Lisa Daniels, managing partner, KPMG*

Lions Club
Litchfield Elementary School District
Literacy Connects
Littleton Elementary District
Madison Elementary School District
Make Way for Books
Mammoth San Manuel Unified School District
Maricopa County Library District
Maricopa Integrated Health Systems (MIHS)
Maricopa Unified School District
Mesa Community College
Mesa Public Library
Mesa Public Schools
Miami Memorial Library
Miami Unified School District
Mobile Elementary School District
Mohave County Library
Murphy Elementary District
myON
Nadaburg Unified School District
Native Americans for Community Action
Native Civic League United Community Health Center
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Northern Arizona University, College of Education
Odyssey Charter Schools
Oracle School District
Osborn Elementary School District
Paiute Neighborhood Center
Palo Verde District
Palominas Unified School District
Paradise Valley Unified School District
Parents Education Network–Phoenix
Pascuay Aqui Community Library
Payson Elementary School
Payson Library*
Payson Roundup
Payson Unified School District
Peach Springs Unified School District
Pendergast Elementary School District

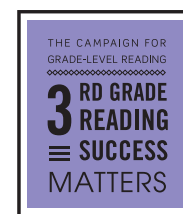
Phoenix Elementary School District
Phoenix Public Library
Pima County Public Library
Pima County School Superintendent’s Office
Pinal County Health Department–Strong Families
Pine Strawberry Elementary District
Prisma Graphic
Raising A Reader
Ray Unified School District
Reach Out and Read Arizona
Riverside Elementary District
Rodel Foundation
Roosevelt Elementary School District
Rotary Club
Saddle Mountain Unified School District
Sahuarita Unified School District
San Carlos Apache Tribe Education Department
San Carlos Unified District
Santa Cruz County Office of Education*
Santa Cruz County School Districts, Charter, and Private Schools
Scottsdale Public Library*
Scottsdale Unified School District*
Sierra Vista Public Library
Sierra Vista Public Schools
Southwest Behavioral Health
Southwest Human Development
Southwest Institute for Families and Children
Steele Foundation
Stand for Children
Stepping Stone Foundation
Sunnyside Unified School District
Superior Unified School District
Target
Tempe Diablos
Tempe Elementary School District #3
Tolleson School District
Tombstone Unified School District
Tonto Basin Elementary District
Town of Globe
Town of Hayden
Town of Hayden Public Library

Town of Miami
Town of Sahuarita
Town of Winkelman
Towns of Payson, Star Valley, Pine, Strawberry, Tonto Basin, and Young
Tribal Council of the Hualapai Indian Tribe
Tucson Metro Chamber
Tucson Unified School District
UMOM
Union School District
United Way of Mesa*
United Way of Northern Arizona*
United Way of Tucson/Southern Arizona*
United Way of Yuma County*
University of Arizona, College of Education
Valley of the Sun United Way*
Valley of the Sun YMCA
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust**
Washington Elementary School District
Whiteman Foundation
Wilson School District
Young Elementary District
Yuma School District #1

And more...

* Convening role

**Founding partner



Read On Arizona is the state designee for the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

For a complete listing of the organizations and agencies partnering with us, visit ReadOnArizona.org.

Read On Arizona Milestones

2012:

- Read On Arizona statewide collaborative forms in June 2012. Arizona literacy director is appointed.
- Four local communities begin work to improve third-grade reading proficiency.
- Read On Arizona adopts a 10-year strategic early literacy plan.
- Arizona is honored as a 2012 “Pacesetter” by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

2013:

- Read On communities now number 11 and counting!
- The Summer Reading Collaborative launches. All partners highlight the importance of reading during the summer and visiting the local library.
- On Family Reading Day, Read On Arizona releases the *Early Literacy Guide for Families*. In partnership with McDonald’s, a free children’s book and guide are distributed at 250 sites across Arizona.
- Read On Arizona/Read On Phoenix hosts first Early Literacy Summit.
- Arizona is honored as a 2013 “Pacesetter” by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

2014:

- Read On communities now number 16 and counting!
- The second Summer Reading Collaborative kick-off features Kristi Yamaguchi and Conrad Storad at Phoenix Children’s Museum.
- The myON digital library pilot offers every child in Arizona free access to a digital library. 85,000 books are opened and read, with an average reading session of 20 minutes.
- *The Continuum of Effective Literacy Practices* is published in October.
- Arizona Department of Education receives \$20M Preschool Development Grant funding; intentional connection to Read On communities.
- Arizona is honored as a 2014 “Pacesetter” by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

2015:

- The Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee awards Read On Arizona a grant for a digital library initiative.
- Read On San Carlos Apache Tribe becomes our first tribal community, followed by Read On Hualapai.
- Read On Arizona becomes a pilot site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Grade-Level Reading Results Program.
- Read On communities now number 24 and counting!
- Read On Arizona unveils interactive MapLIT tool.

Advance Early Literacy–Join Us!

For more information and to receive updates from Read On Arizona, visit ReadOnArizona.org or contact Terri Clark, Arizona literacy director, at tclark@ReadOnArizona.org or 480-556-7151.



When Arizona Reads, Arizona Thrives
www.ReadOnArizona.org