



The Providence, Rhode Island, Grade-Level Reading Campaign is recognized as a 2014 Pacesetter for making measurable progress on student attendance and overall increases in reading proficiency.

Providence celebrated a 6 percent jump in grade-level reading (at the end of third grade from the 2011-2012 school year to 2013-2014). In addition, chronic absenteeism has decreased in grades K–3 with decreases of 1 percent to 5 percent for individual grades.

The local Campaign is using a wide variety of strategies in all community solutions areas to drive progress on GLR outcomes. To address chronic absenteeism, the local Campaign is using the following strategies: community-wide attendance awareness campaigns to help parents understand and own the importance of good attendance and find out about supports that address barriers to getting to school; school-level messaging, modeling and incentives to nurture a culture and cultivate the habits of excellent attendance; positive priority early outreach starting at the beginning of the school year to prevent chronic absence; cross-sector coordination to identify and ameliorate the health challenges that are the major contributors to chronic absence; and the widespread implementation of evidence-based programs that are proven to increase attendance.

The Providence Campaign reaches approximately 25,000 low-income children. The Campaign regularly disaggregates its data by neighborhood, free and reduced-price lunch, gender, special education and English language learner status, zip code, asthma and lead blood levels. Reflecting on the Campaign communities' progress, Rhode Island State Lead Stephanie Geller commented, "Providence's Grade-Level Reading Campaign has not only improved chronic absence and grade-level reading in the Capital city, but also raised awareness about these two issues across the state." Rebecca Boxx, Director of the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet says, "It has been inspiring to see our city come together to improve outcomes for children and focus on the critical benchmark of third-grade reading. The significant increase in literacy scores over the past few years is a testament to the collective efforts of our School District, the Mayor's Office and the many community organizations who serve Providence's children and families each day."

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Stephanie Geller, State Lead

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PROVIDENCE

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading proudly recognizes the shared ownership for the progress in Providence among the following members of the local sponsoring coalition — the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet:

- Providence Public School Department
- City Year
- Boys & Girls Club of Rhode Island
- United Way of Rhode Island
- Ready to Learn Providence
- Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
- Inspiring Minds
- Meeting Street
- Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island
- Family Service of Rhode Island
- Providence Children's Museum
- Children's Friend and Service
- Serve Rhode Island
- The Providence Plan
- Providence Talks
- Providence YMCA Youth Services
- Providence Community Library
- Reach Out and Read Rhode Island
- Rhode Island Department of Health
- City of Providence
- The Center for Southeast Asians
- The Providence Center