

For Immediate Release

The Campaign for
**GRADE-LEVEL
READING**
3RD GRADE READING
SUCCESS MATTERS

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Reading Is Fundamental Honored for 50 Years of Bringing the Joy of Reading to Children and Families Nationwide

Literacy Champions Team Up to Help Students Combat the Summer Learning Slide

Washington, DC, April 7, 2016 – Today at the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading’s third annual Funder-to-Funder Huddle with over 200 philanthropic leaders from across the country, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) received special honors for more than 50 years of sharing the joy of reading through providing access to high-quality books and literacy resources to children, families, and educators across the nation.

Giving a child a book that is his or hers to keep is a simple yet powerful tool for unlocking a love of learning and setting them on a path to success throughout life,” said Ralph Smith, managing director, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. “We are deeply grateful to Reading Is Fundamental for the important work they do to address one of the leading causes of the reading proficiency gap. Providing opportunities for children to have access to books and other learning resources, particularly during the summer, is an essential part of ensuring more hopeful futures our children.”

Starting this summer, RIF and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading are partnering to implement the *Read for Success* program in 10 GLR Campaign communities across the country. The alliance is part of a comprehensive matching grant program provided by RIF to minimize the summer learning slide and improve reading outcomes for young students.

“We are honored to be recognized by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for our work to advance children’s literacy,” said Carol H. Rasco, president and CEO of Reading Is Fundamental. “With RIF’s evidence-based program, *Read for Success*, we have a real opportunity to slow the summer slide for early grade school students; we are pleased to have awarded RIF matching grants to GLR Campaign communities this summer.”

About Reading Is Fundamental

[Reading Is Fundamental](#) (RIF) transforms lives through the power of books. By providing children in need with access to books of their choosing, RIF empowers young minds to embrace the world of reading and develop a love of learning. As the nation’s largest children’s literacy organization, RIF has provided more than 412 million books to 40 million RIF kids over 50 years, inspiring generations to

read, learn and grow. Visit us online to learn more, www.rif.org and follow us on Twitter [@RIFWEB](https://twitter.com/RIFWEB).

About the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Launched in May 2010, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a collaborative effort of funders, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that many more children from low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship. By 2020, the GLR Campaign aims to increase by at least 100 percent the number of children from low-income families reading proficiently by the end of third grade in 12 states or more. The GLR Campaign includes more than 240 communities, representing 42 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 2,100 local organizations (including 130 United Ways and 250+ state and local funders). To learn more, visit gradelevelreading.net and follow us on Twitter [@readingby3rd](https://twitter.com/readingby3rd).

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