



JOINING THE CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING COMMUNITIES NETWORK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a collaborative effort by funders, nonprofits, government agencies, business leaders, states and communities across the nation to ensure that more low-income children succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship. The GLR Campaign focuses on a key predictor of school success and high school graduation — grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

Since the GLR Campaign Communities Network was launched in in 2012, this diverse and dedicated Network of growing communities has been hard at work implementing ambitious plans to address three challenges to students' reading success that are widespread, consequential and amenable to community solutions: school readiness, school attendance and summer learning. We have begun to see the power of the Network, as communities have started to rely on each other for information, ideas and inspiration. Momentum is building, as communities work to contribute to the overall goal of the GLR Campaign — by 2020, a dozen states or more will increase by at least 100 percent the number of low-income children reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Are you part of a community that is interested in joining the Network? The information that follows should help you determine next steps.

1. What should our community do to join the Network?

The Communities that are interested in joining will have the opportunity to file a [Letter of Intent \(LOI\)](#), convene a sponsoring coalition with a designated leader, and develop a [Community Solutions Action Plan \(CSAP\)](#) that will be reviewed by both peers and GLR Campaign Partners. LOIs and CSAPs will be accepted on a continuous basis.

- Drawing on the experiences of charter communities, we estimate that it will take approximately six months, on average, for a community to move from submitting the LOI to submitting its CSAP to the Campaign. That said, communities have variously taken considerably shorter and longer periods

of time to convene their sponsoring coalitions and develop their CSAPs. Again, there is no formal deadline — the Campaign will be pleased to accept CSAPs at any point in the calendar year.

- A community will be considered a full member of the Network of Campaign communities immediately upon submission of its CSAP to the Campaign.
- Communities that submit CSAPs will be formally recognized by the Campaign as follows: CSAPs received between January 1 and June 30 will be publicly recognized in July, while CSAPs received between July 1 and December 31 will be publicly recognized in January.

If you are interested, please contact Ron Fairchild at 443-986-1275 or ron@smarterlearninggroup.com.

2. What sort of partners should we engage in the coalition?

You know your own community best, but other places have engaged a broad range of players to advance grade-level reading. They include:

- Mayors or county leaders
- School districts and schools
- Local government agencies, including social services, health, housing and transportation departments
- PTA or parent advocacy groups
- Teachers union or leadership
- United Way and community-based nonprofits
- Local foundations
- Chamber of Commerce and business leaders
- Law enforcement
- Faith leaders
- Libraries
- Afterschool providers
- Health care providers
- Ethnic and cultural associations

3. Where can I find information about what to include in our Letter of Intent and CSAP?

Visit the GLR Campaign's website at gradelevelreading.net for more information and materials. The GLR Campaign has sample plans from other communities as well as archived webinars with detailed information and resources to support your CSAP development process.

4. This process seems quite demanding, why is it necessary?

The experience of the communities currently in the Network suggests that all of the activities in the process have merit and are essential in building the capacity, vision and support to successfully implement comprehensive and sustainable plans. The Network exists to support communities in making significant progress by 2020 on all three community solutions and in beginning to move the needle on grade-level reading. We believe the assurances articulated in the CSAP framework, and the process to develop the plans, prepare communities to develop action plans that have the potential to make the difference we all seek.

5. Okay that makes sense, but it still sounds like a great deal of hard work, can we get help?

You have access to a wealth of materials, tools, webinars and peers who have already gone through this process and you will have access to GLR Campaign staff to help answer questions. When you file your Letter of Intent you will gain access to the Campaign's online community, the Huddle, and resources designed specifically to support you in this process. Your community will receive valuable technical assistance and support from a national network of staff, consultants, funders and other cities involved in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

6. How many more communities do you anticipate will join the Network?

We do not have a set number in mind. We know the GLR Campaign will be even stronger if we include additional communities that are mobilized, resourced and eager to learn and contribute to the goals of the Campaign overall. We anticipate that all new communities joining the Network will have identified local resources to support both the planning phase and the early stages of implementation.

7. What do you expect our community to contribute and gain from becoming a member of the Network?

The GLR Support Center is the arm of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading established to help Network members develop, implement and sustain solutions to the challenges and barriers to grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

Your community will have the opportunity to contribute to and learn from Communities of Practice focused on each of the three community solutions areas and key implementation challenges. The GLR Support Center will also facilitate efforts to scale up and replicate the strongest grade-level reading initiatives in select member communities and will afford opportunities to engage and collaborate strategically with key partner funders and national organizations. Members of the Network also have access to media tools to help “make the case” in your community and to provide examples to inspire broader engagement and action. The GLR Campaign also makes available policy guidance on issues related to the community solutions and grade-level reading.

Finally, most communities also have the benefit of having a state lead who helps broker technical assistance, communicates needs and questions from the community and key messages from the GLR Campaign, and generally serves as an advisor in addressing barriers to implementation and finding peer communities or experts to inform the work underway.

Other specific benefits that Network members enjoy priority access to include:

- The nation's **leading experts** in school readiness, attendance and summer learning
- **Key policymakers** at the federal and state levels in Campaign gatherings
- Information about proven and promising **models, programs and strategies**
- **Peer learning opportunities** with other public officials, educators and civic leaders from around the nation
- **Media products that can be localized** to help spread the word about successes in your city
- **Potential funders** looking to invest in promising local efforts to achieve impact and scale

8. Could my community be eligible for direct funding from the GLR Campaign to support further planning or operations of our CSAP?

The GLR Campaign will not provide direct funding to communities. We anticipate that all new communities joining the Network will have identified local resources to support both the planning phase and the early stages of implementation. However, a significant focus of the GLR Support Center is to work to help aggregate resources for communities to access, by identifying leveraged public and private funding sources and providing technical assistance to help communities find resources to start and sustain GLR efforts.

9. What if my community is already part of another national initiative, such as STRIVE, Ready by 21 or Promise Neighborhoods?

This means you have some of the necessary infrastructure, resources, data and partners in place to focus on grade-level reading. We believe there is great power in joining forces with related efforts focused on improving child outcomes in communities and nationally. The GLR Support Center actively seeks to connect current Network members with these national initiatives and other affiliations that are designed to strengthen their work.

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