



Since its launch in 2012 when six Iowa communities responded to the GLR Campaign's original call to action, the Iowa Campaign for Grade-Level Reading has had a laser-like focus on both building community capacity and the state policies needed to move the needle and close the gap.

Iowa's GLR Campaign has benefited from strong, long-term support from the philanthropic sector, with 31 state and local funders, 350 partners and over 25,000 volunteers. Its achievements have been made possible by an exemplary statewide public/private collaboration that has been working full throttle to improve language and literacy outcomes for children from birth through third grade.

During the past six years, the number of Iowa GLR communities has doubled to 12 and they have stood out as leaders on the national map of GLR communities, with 7 Iowa communities receiving 2016 Pacesetter Honors, 5 selected as All-America City Finalists and 3 were All-America City Awardees. The Iowa GLR communities now cover 58 school districts, serving many of the state's disadvantaged learners.

The Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF) has continued its leadership to broaden and strategically align funder engagement in Iowa. It formed a statewide grade-level reading funder coalition that regularly gathers to share strategies for the GLR work across the state with the goal of improving children's outcomes and amplifying the voice of philanthropy on the urgency of the GLR goal. Over \$20 million in philanthropic investments have been made to support the work of Iowa GLR since its launch.

Notable among philanthropic partners are local United Ways, several of which lead the local sponsoring coalition in their communities. United Ways of Iowa also launched the Iowa Reading Corps AmeriCorps program in 2013, which has grown to 75 members serving 50 Iowa communities during the 2016–17 school year.

The Iowa Campaign for Grade-Level Reading has enjoyed strong gubernatorial support — from Governor Branstad's leadership during the early years of the Iowa GLR Campaign to Governor Reynolds' strong leadership and focus on increasing the percentage of children reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

Iowa's Early Literacy Law, passed by the legislature in 2012, created the impetus and framework for the many elements needed to move the needle and close the gap. Among its requirements are universal screening in reading for students in kindergarten through third grade; and for students who are persistently at risk in reading, progress monitoring, 90 minutes per day of intensive reading instruction and notification to parents, including strategies parents can use at home to help their children succeed. The legislation also established the Iowa Reading Research Center, which provides consultation, technical assistance and professional development to districts throughout the state on effective literacy practices.

This approach is paying off, with a combined total of 13,946 students moving from below benchmark to at or above benchmark during the 2015–16 and the 2016–17 school years.

Iowa's state policies and systems focus on the "whole child," with strategies and investments across health, early learning and family support. Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) provides funding for services to children/families birth to age 5. Local ECI boards have expanded home visiting and parent education, improved child care and preschool quality and access for low-income families, and have increased the availability of infant, shift care and inclusive child care.

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Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, established in 2007, has expanded to serve 24,961 Iowa preschoolers in 322 school districts, with studies showing increased proficiencies in beginning reading skills among children who attend. Quality literacy instruction is embedded into preschool classroom curricula, routines, and activities. In fall 2014, 53 percent of kindergartners were proficient on the FAST assessment, and by fall 2016 the percentage proficient increased to 68 percent.

1st Five is a public-private partnership supporting health providers in the earlier detection of social-emotional and developmental delays in children birth to 5 and coordinates referrals, interventions and follow-up. This effort has reached nearly 9,000 families since it started in 2007. In addition, Parentivity, an online interactive home visiting system delivers personalized resources to parents in English and Spanish that promote healthy child development and optimize resilience.

Strong collaborations with Reach Out and Read, Iowa Public Television and the Iowa Afterschool Alliance have accelerated Iowa GLR's work to improve school readiness, attendance and summer learning.

- Reach Out and Read now serves 61,764 children in 106 clinical locations.
- Iowa Public Television has served over 100 communities in the past 5 years with their Ready for School programming, and over 1,300 child care providers have used their online learning opportunities.
- The Iowa Afterschool Alliance has supported Iowa GLR communities with resources on how to best achieve improved reading proficiency during out of school time programming.

The Iowa Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's outstanding track record of combining smart state policies, strategic public/private partnerships and an energized and growing cadre of top-notch GLR communities has created a powerful statewide force for bigger outcomes and sustainable scale.

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