The Campaign for GRADE-LEVEL READING

COVID-19 and student learning in the United States:

THE HURT COULD LAST A LIFETIME

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Looks Forward

CIVIC ACTION AND ADVOCACY AGENDA, 2023–2026

The sobering realities of the magnitude and longer-term implications of pandemic-precipitated learning loss demand serious, urgent and sustained attention. Toward that end, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) is recharging its Learning Loss Recovery Challenge and focusing its network mobilization initiatives on advancing and accelerating equitable academic recovery. Local stakeholder coalitions across CGLR's 350+ network communities will be encouraged, supported and equipped to pursue a robust ***civic action and advocacy agenda*** that prioritizes:

- **Advocating for digital connectivity and universal access to the internet;**
- **Working with schools and school districts to ensure "smart" decisions to invest in some "big bets" around technology-enhanced teaching and learning, teacher development (especially coaching), effective tutoring (and other relational supports such as coaches and mentors), family engagement and promoting everyday attendance;**
- **Embracing the "learning happens everywhere" approach that makes learning-rich environments community-wide and ubiquitous;**
- **Implementing the U.S. Department of Education's call to build the kindergarten year into a "more sturdy bridge" between the early years and the early grades; and**
- **Partnering with public housing agencies to build the 24/7/365 multigenerational "surround sound" systems of care, supports and services that children growing up in economically challenged, fragile and marginalized families need.**

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The ***civic action and advocacy agenda*** for equitable academic recovery will be guided and undergirded by the foundational CGLR imperatives.

1. Focus on improving the prospects for the children of economically challenged, fragile and marginalized families who are disproportionately families of color.

2. Elevate and center parents by equipping them to succeed as primary stakeholders and essential partners in improving outcomes and the overall well-being of their children.

3. Practice intentional collaboration as the preferred approach for enhancing impact and engaging allies, champions and partners.

4. Work and learn alongside the stakeholders most proximate to the problems and, therefore, to potential solutions.

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading seeks to disrupt generational poverty by mobilizing communities to find solutions for one of the major obstacles in the pathway out of poverty — failure to read proficiently by the end of third grade. We activate and engage communities to do three things: **Place a stake in the ground** around a third-grade reading goal that is ambitious, achievable and actionable. **Develop a Community Solutions Action Plan** to solve the major drivers of the third-grade reading proficiency gap — too few young children ready for school; too many students missing too many days of school; and too many children experiencing summer learning loss. **Engage the cross-sector stakeholder coalition** needed to implement the plan, most notably data holders, providers of services and supports to families and young children, and — most importantly — parents and caregivers. We support the work in participating GLR communities by serving as a **hub** for network learning and peer coaching, a **broker** for needed information and tools, an accelerator of progress lifting up Bright Spots and recognizing Pacesetters, and a **distribution channel** for innovative proven and promising models, programs, ideas and messages.

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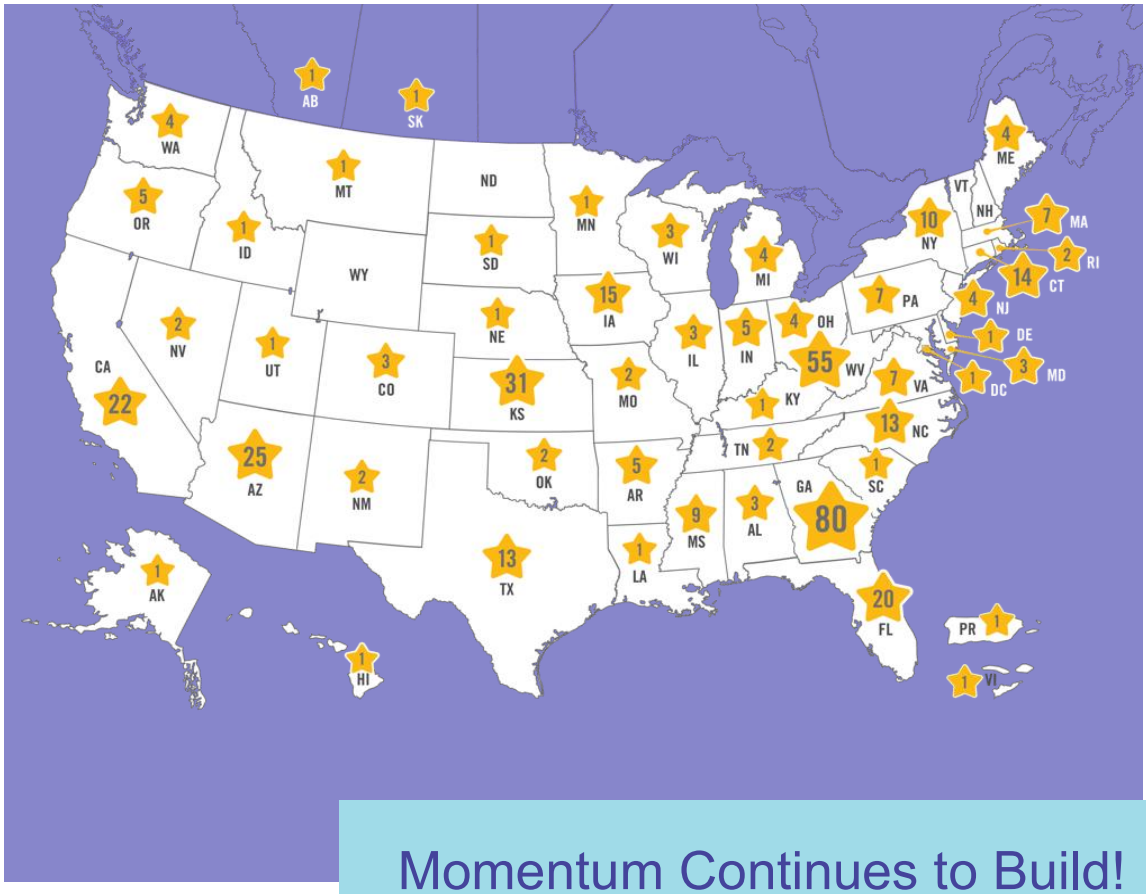

Momentum Continues to Build!

The GLR Communities Network includes 350+ communities in 49 U.S. jurisdictions (46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) and two Canadian provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan) — sponsored by 5,000+ organizations, institutions and agencies, including 700 state, regional and local funders, 200 United Ways, and 100+ sector- and field-leading organizations and affiliate networks that are engaged as allies, champions and partners.

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