



GETTING EARLY LITERACY BACK ON TRACK

2021 THIRD QUARTER UPDATE

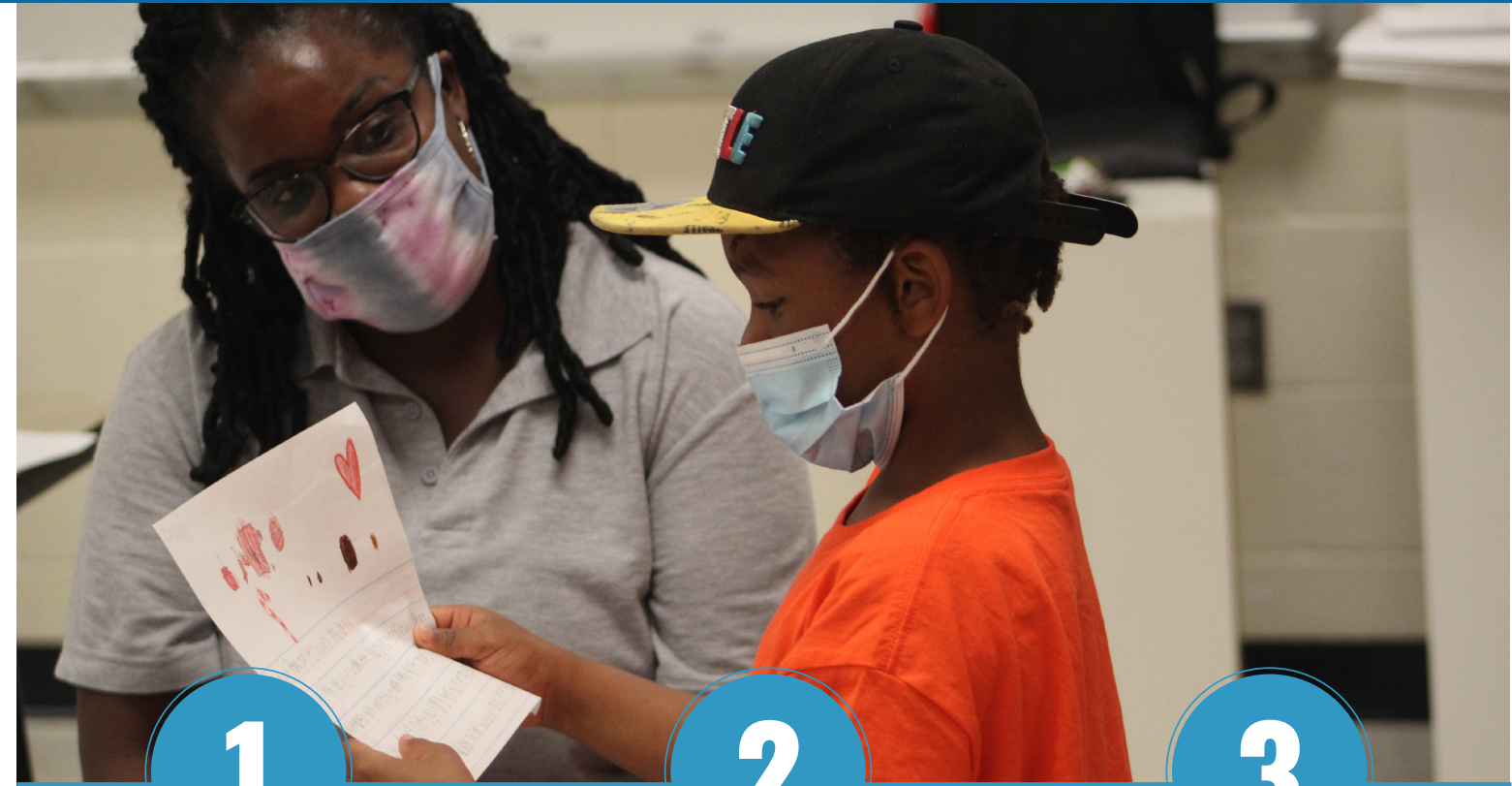
WHO WE ARE

Read Charlotte is a community-wide children's reading initiative uniting parents, educators and community partners to improve children's literacy from birth through third grade.

WHERE WE STAND

On September 1, North Carolina released 2021 test scores. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools warned in early August that the impact of the pandemic was deep and wide-ranging. It was, in fact, an equal opportunity destroyer of early literacy, affecting children across racial and socioeconomic groups and in every part of Mecklenburg County. It will take a massive collective impact effort to get our children reading. Together, we can help.

How Read Charlotte is responding to the pandemic



1

Strengthening the capacity of the nonprofit sector

- Providing cutting-edge tools and resources (Reading Checkup and A2i After School) to support out-of-school tutoring & family empowerment to help children
- Building a volunteer tutor dashboard and partner resource portal
- Providing training and coaching for community partners
- Supporting data analysis and continuous quality improvement for community partners

2

Coordinating and collaborating

- Partnering with over a dozen organizations to support a focused PK-5 literacy recovery
- Partnering with Classroom Central and Promising Pages to distribute literacy kits and books to families through community partners
- Supporting a multi-agency response to the CMS \$50 million RFP for out-of-school tutoring

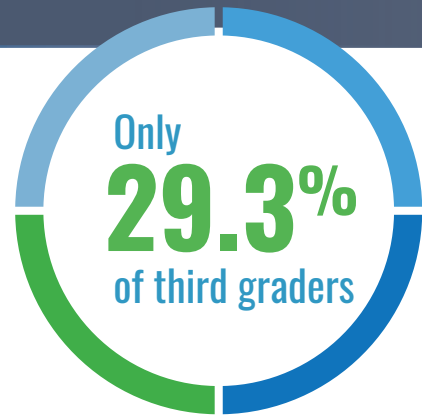
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Advocating

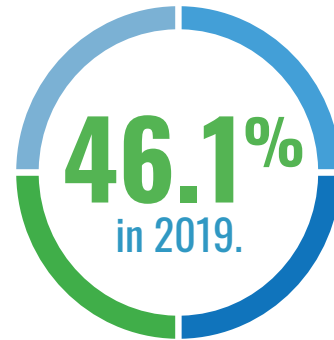
- Pushing for smart investments in tutoring and family empowerment to support literacy outside of the classroom
- Promoting use of the A2i Professional Support System in Mecklenburg County PK-3 classrooms to turbocharge differentiated instruction and close racial literacy achievement gaps
- Pushing to develop a community-wide strategy to scale high-quality tutoring to at least 10,000 K-5 students in Mecklenburg County (in-school, after school and summer)

IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

The interruption of regular classroom instruction by the pandemic had a negative impact on children across our community. When the state test scores were released on September 1st, we finally saw how bad it was.



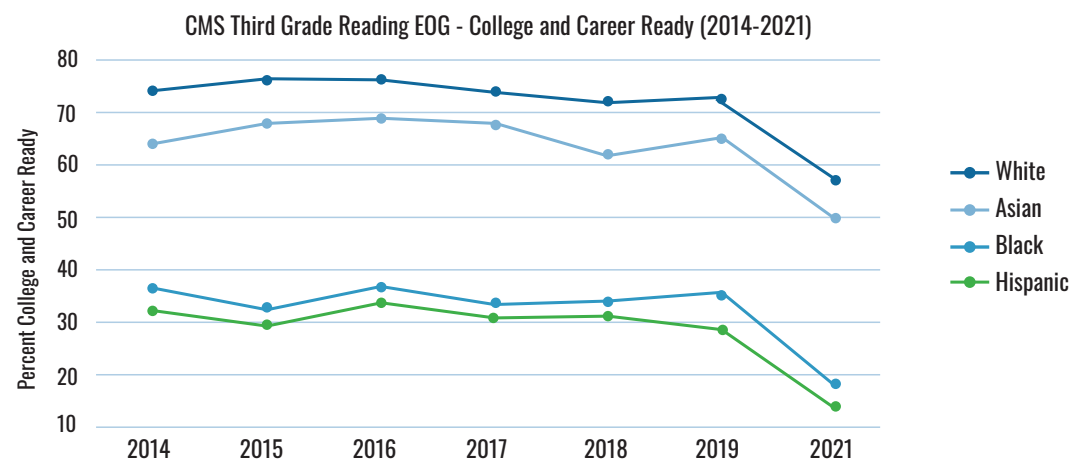
in CMS schools scored at College and Career Ready – a significant drop from



The reality is that before we ever heard of “COVID”, too many children in our community – especially Black and Hispanic children – were **not on-track** for **reading proficiency** by third grade.

This chart shows the disparities in third grade reading achievement in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools by racial group from 2015-2021. The pandemic had a roughly equal negative effect on reading achievement for all children across our community. However, the fact that Black and Hispanic third graders started out lower than their White and Asian peers means that their reading scores are now lower than ever.

All Racial Subgroups in CMS Negatively Impacted by Pandemic



CCR Decline (2019 vs 2021)

White: -15.1%
Asian: -15.9%
Black: -17.4%
Hispanic: -14.7%

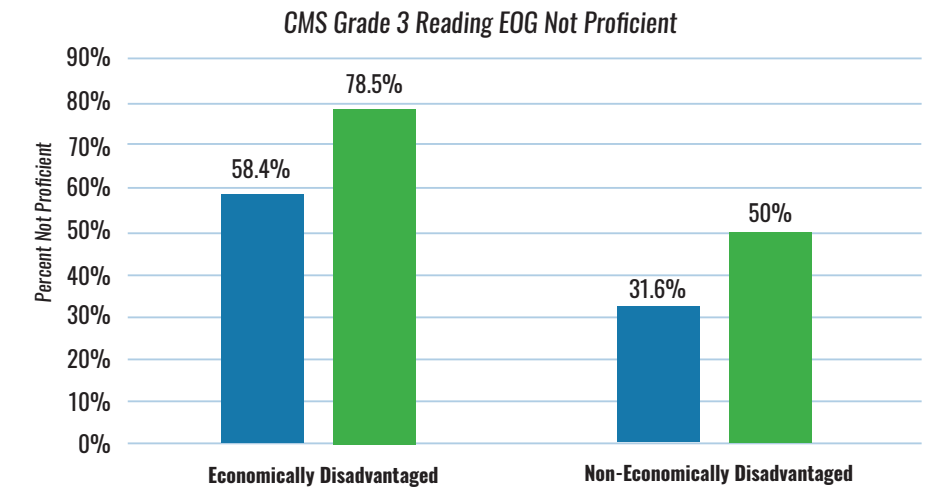
A child’s ZIP code or how much money their family has should not determine whether they learn to read. Yet, the pandemic pushed the percentage of economically disadvantaged third graders scoring Not Proficient on the state reading assessment to nearly 80%.

Children Across Socioeconomic Groups Experienced an Increase in Not Proficient Scores

Over three-fourths of Economically Disadvantaged and half of Non-Economically Disadvantaged third graders scored at Not Proficient in reading.

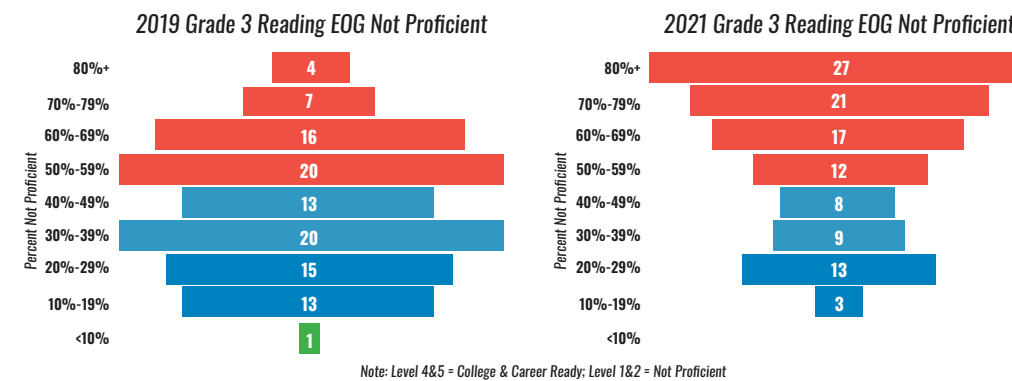
The percentage point increase between 2019 and 2021 for Economically Disadvantaged third graders (20.1%) was not much greater than Non-Economically Disadvantaged (18.4%)

2019
2021



Pandemic’s Negative Impact Felt Across the District

Number of schools by achievement level



No part of our community was spared. The number of schools with 50% or more third graders scoring Not Proficient increased from 47 in 2019 to 77 in 2021.

We need to both help our children recover from the horrific impact of the pandemic on their reading achievement and close the horrible gaps that preceded the pandemic. To ensure the promise of our children’s futures, our community must work together like never before.

HOPE IN NUMBERS

A comprehensive review by Read Charlotte found the HELPS fluency program to be more successful in improving reading fluency than any other reading intervention.

Middle of year to end of year (SY 20-21),
50.4%
of students met or exceeded growth while navigating COVID-related disruptions to learning.
(238, 1st-5th grade students)

54
tutors worked with these students -
33 NC Ed Corps members;
21 CMS-staffed tutors

303
students served through Camp
CMS and HELPS' Literacy Clinic
(Summer 2021)

94% The percentage of the 330 rising K-5 students served through the 2021 Summer Literacy Infusion program, in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Charlotte and 14 nonprofit partners, who maintained or improved their reading level.



4,396
Literacy Kits assembled by Classroom Central and provided to partners to distribute to families
(June 2020-September 2021)

3,783
COMPLETED
Reading Checkups
(PreK-3rd grade)
from April 2020-Sept. 2021



11,218
new & diverse books distributed to community partners working with Mecklenburg County families in partnership with Promising Pages & Read Charlotte (June 2020-September 2021)

READ CHARLOTTE
THRIVES
THROUGH STRONG
PARTNERSHIPS
& COUNTY-WIDE
ALIGNMENT.



"Summer Literacy Infusion was a great experience for our campers and staff. We have always implemented literacy within our programs but this year, we were able to increase our impact and provide a higher quality literacy initiative. Our literacy programming was done with more intention and was more outcome-driven than it has been in the past. We saw our kids have more excitement regarding doing summer literacy this year and that excited our staff. Thank you so much for the support and resources that you provided for our campers!"

-Kim Roseboro, Firm Foundations Executive Director
(IMPACT Learning Summer X-perience)

"One of my favorite things about tutoring is seeing all of their different personalities. It's amazing and really adds to the experience. Seeing the students' reactions to their progress on the passages, advancing in their star charts, and playing games with them is really great."

HELPS Tutor (2021 NC Ed Corps Member)



Thank you

to our financial supporters for
powering our work to transform
early literacy

Read Charlotte

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THIS QUARTER

*Albemarle
Foundation*

*David Tepper Charitable
Foundation*

The Duke Endowment

Mecklenburg County

*Wells Fargo
Foundation*

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR LITERACY!



GET INVOLVED



Donate your time, talent, and
treasure to literacy tutoring
programs, afterschool programs
supporting literacy and groups
that serve families with literacy
supports for reading at home.
Learn more at ReadCharlotte.org