Igniting Reading Success Across the Region

'23-'24 IMPACT REPORT

Reading Assist

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Note from our CEO

Reading Assist

Dear Friend,

The 2023-24 school year marked our biggest growth year to date. We served more than 1,800 students! It's an amazing milestone for us at Reading Assist when just five years ago we were serving 220 students. I'm especially proud that we have maintained strong outcomes amid this growth, with 90% of students reaching foundational benchmarks.

As our program continues to grow, we remain driven by our mission to help as many children as possible reach success in reading.

Last year we brought our services to children outside of Delaware through partnerships with schools in Chester, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. Following a successful pilot in spring and summer 2024, we will also be expanding our services to Washington, DC, for the 2024-25 school year, with almost 30 tutors serving in 15 DC public and charter schools.

This year, as we celebrate our milestone 35th anniversary, we are more determined than ever to continue our exploration of other avenues to best support young students in their reading journeys, including pre-K programming, science of reading-based professional development for educators, and partnerships like our new Tutors to Teachers Delaware program that help build the teacher pipeline.

None of this work is possible without broad support from our Reading Assist community. On behalf of our staff and board of directors, we thank you for your dedication to helping more young readers achieve reading proficiency.

Caroline O'Neal
Chief Executive Officer

What Drives Us

MISSION: Reading Assist provides intensive services for young, at-risk children with the most significant reading challenges so that they achieve reading progress and proficiency.

AMBITION: Reading Assist will become the leading regional expert and trusted provider of reading instruction and intervention for young, struggling readers.

We will grow to serve

10,000 students

with **90% reaching benchmarks**

in foundational skills

within 1 year.

Why Reading Assist Works

HIGH-IMPACT, EVIDENCE-BASED INSTRUCTION

Our trained tutors work one-on-one or in small groups with students for 30 minutes, 3 to 5 days a week. Tutors teach our accredited Reading Assist program, an Orton-Gillingham-based, structured literacy curriculum.

HIGH-QUALITY TRAINING AND COACHING SUPPORT

Reading Assist recruits, trains, and embeds AmeriCorps members willing to commit a school year to serve as tutors. Tutors receive intensive training in our Reading Assist curriculum and are guided throughout the year by our dedicated program team. This additional level of support for tutors ensures they can successfully meet students' needs.

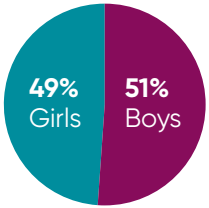
DATA-DRIVEN

Reading Assist gauges student success using Acadience Reading K-6, which measures progress in six foundational reading skills. Students complete benchmark assessments three times during the year, along with weekly progress monitoring. Program staff review progress data weekly to make data-driven adjustments to each student's tutoring and reading goals.

> "Our Fellows are amazing! They have helped serve so many students on their level that we would not have been able to do that without them. We simply just do not have enough interventionists.
>
> - LITERACY COACH, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

Who We Serve: Student Demographics

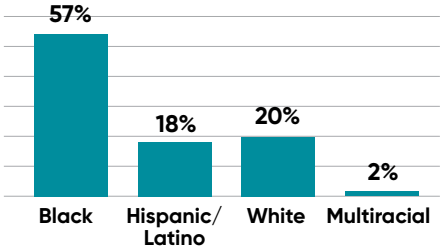
Student Gender



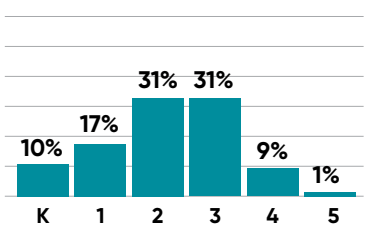
16% English Language Learners

22% Students with a Special Education Classification

Student Race



Student Grade



Note: Excludes missing data, and "Other" category for race.

> The program works and if you want to make a difference in a child's life and want to see results in real time, this is the job you want. Being able to celebrate every milestone they make with them, be it big or small, is the best feeling.
>
> - SUZIE, 2023-24 READING ASSIST FELLOW

Our Results

THIS YEAR, READING ASSIST SERVED

49
total schools

1,800
students

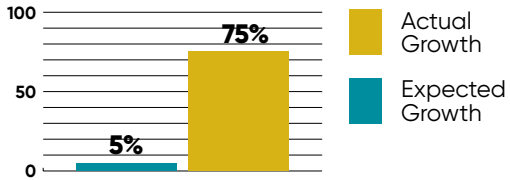
75%
of kindergartners tested on grade level

90% of students reached benchmarks in foundational reading skills

Up to
17 months
of learning gained during the 9 ½-month school year

RATE OF PROGRESS

Oral Reading Fluency



Students outpaced expected learning by up to 15x

2023-24 Highlights

PENNSYLVANIA EXPANSION

Reading Assist Fellows are embedded in four schools in Chester, Pennsylvania, marking the first time Reading Assist supports students outside of its home base of Delaware.

SMALL GROUP TUTORING

We piloted small group tutoring sessions—with one tutor serving two students per session—to support additional students and lower the cost per student served.

DC EXPANSION

Reading Assist begins its first partnership in Washington DC in spring 2024, setting the stage for a broader expansion to DC schools for the 2024-25 school year.

ACCELERATE GRANT

Through a national grant awarded by Accelerate, Reading Assist was selected by the Delaware Department of Education and Governor John Carney's office to expand and study high-impact tutoring across Delaware.

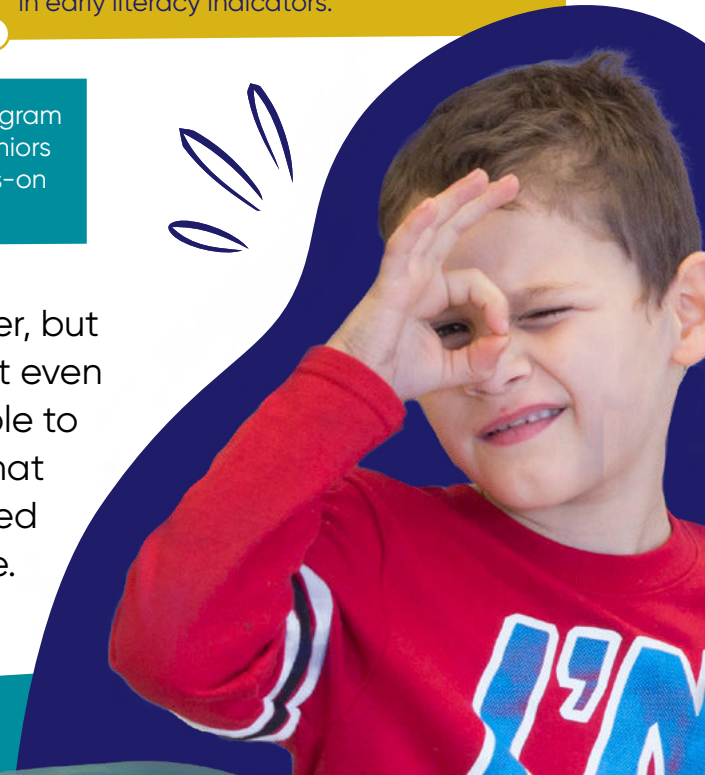
BUILDING THE TEACHER PIPELINE

In partnership with Wilmington University, Reading Assist introduced Tutors to Teachers Delaware which offers tutors an opportunity to earn a master's degree in special education for as little as $4,000.

Through a partnership with the teacher pathway program at Howard High School in Wilmington, high school seniors exploring a career in education can gain early hands-on experience by serving as Reading Assist Fellows.

PRE-K PROGRAM PILOT

Reading Assist pilots reading instruction to pre-K students at three summer programs sites, with 48% of students showing growth in early literacy indicators.



"I did not know what I wanted to do with my career, but Reading Assist unlocked a special passion I didn't even know was there for children and literacy. I was able to witness my students overcome challenges and that pushed me to grow as an educator. I am overjoyed for this opportunity to pursue my master's degree.

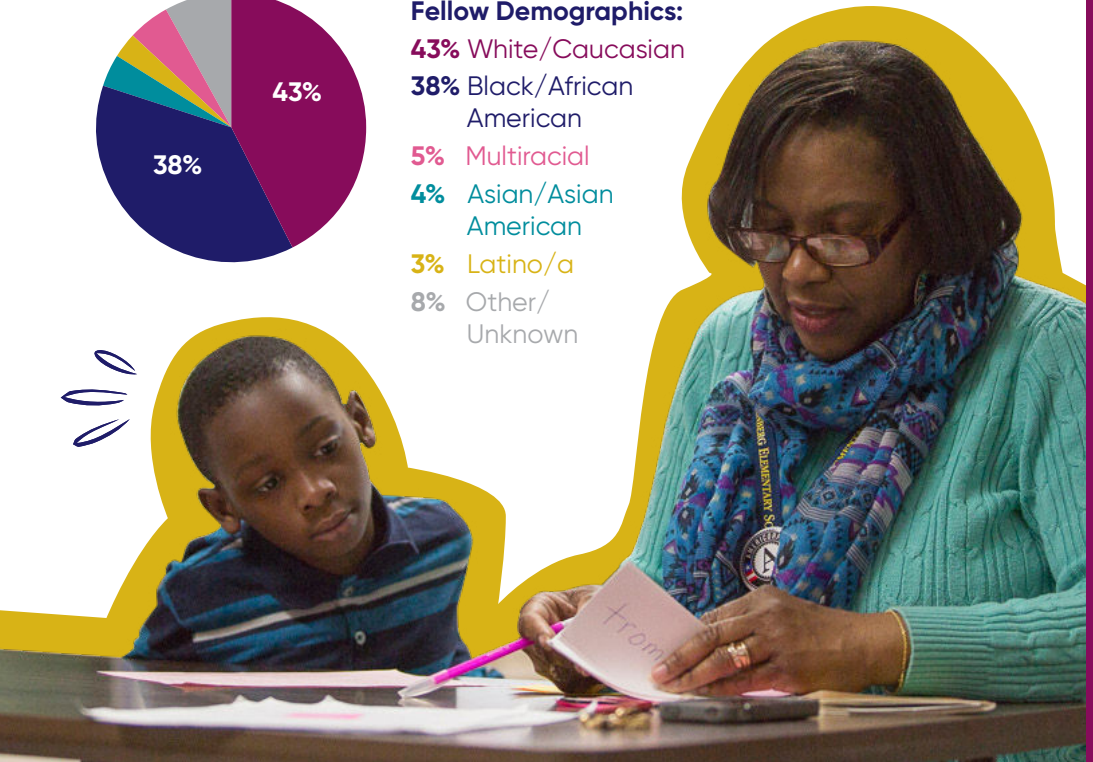
- BRIANNA, TUTORS TO TEACHERS DELAWARE CANDIDATE

Our Tutors

We recruited a diverse group of 210 tutors this year, which included 113 AmeriCorps members serving during the school year, and 97 summer and after-school tutors.

Fellow Demographics:

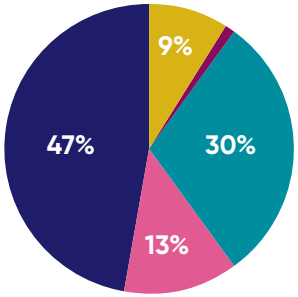
43% White/Caucasian
38% Black/African American
5% Multiracial
4% Asian/Asian American
3% Latino/a
8% Other/ Unknown



> This is a great experience for someone fresh out of college or wanting to test the waters in the field of education. This was such a great intro for me and helped me find my way.
>
> - DANIELA, 2023-24 READING ASSIST FELLOW

Our Support

Thank you to all those in the Reading Assist community for supporting our work. We are so grateful to the tutors who work tirelessly to support our struggling readers throughout the year, as well as to the donors, funders, board members, and partners for making it possible.



FUNDING BREAKDOWN

47% Program Fees
30% Americorps
13% Government Sources
9% Foundation and Corporation Support
1% Individual Giving

Your gift will make a lasting difference for our students.

There are always more schools seeking our partnership and students in need of our support than we can meet. Consider supporting Reading Assist with a donation.

SCAN THE QR CODE or visit **READINGASSIST.ORG/DONATE** to join our community of supporters.

Reading Assist
100 West 10th Street, Suite 910
Wilmington, DE 19801

Learn more about the Reading Assist difference.

SCAN THE QR CODE to view a short video about how our program helps unlock the world of reading for struggling readers.