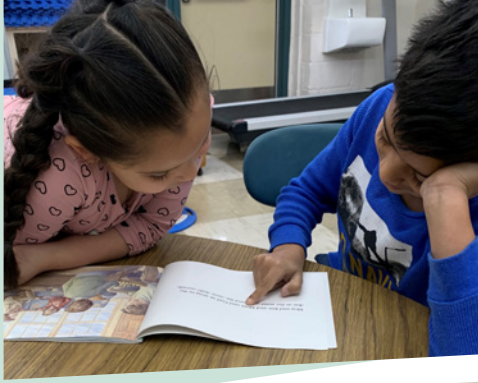
2019-2020

Reading Assist

Impact Report



READING ASSIST® INSTITUTE

Each year at Reading Assist, we look forward to making a profound difference in the lives of Delaware's most struggling readers. Despite school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we made significant strides toward our three-year strategic plan goals to extend our reach throughout the state and serve more children.

Reading Assist expanded into its 10th school and completed a kindergarten expansion pilot program. Starting with the 2020-21 school year, we will provide reading intervention services for children in kindergarten through third grade.

This year, Reading Assist's program was recognized nationally by the Corporation for National and Community Service through a competitive AmeriCorps funding grant, which will allow us to recruit more AmeriCorps members to provide intervention services to students in need.

The 2020-2021 school year will be nothing like we've seen before, but Reading Assist is up to the challenge. Our students need us and we will be there for them – no matter what.

Where We Serve

Reading Assist works in partnership with New Castle County schools to identify and serve children in kindergarten to third grade who score in the lowest 10% for reading proficiency. We recruit, train, and embed AmeriCorps members – known as Reading Assist Fellows (formerly known as the Reading Assist Intervention Corps) - willing to commit a school year of service to provide our accredited one-on-one intervention program to low-income students, students of color, students with language-based learning challenges like dyslexia, and English language learners.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS:
10 Elementary Schools

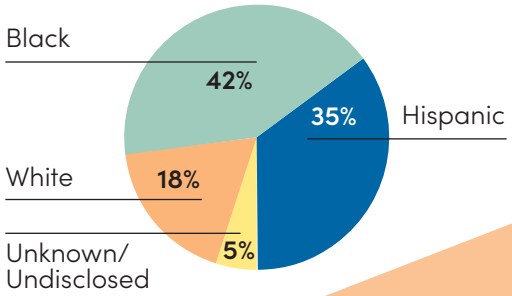
% OF SCHOOLS THAT RECEIVE TITLE I FUNDING:
100%

LOCATION:
New Castle County

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED THIS YEAR (YEAR 5):
160

50% growth from year 1

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



33% English Language Learners

22% Students with a Special Education Classification

"The [fellows] have the ability to work one-on-one with our neediest students and really get the students to show progress. [They] also become a part of your staff culture."

– Partner school principal

Our Results

Reading Assist is the only direct service intervention program in the country that specifically targets students in the lowest 10% of reading proficiency.

In just one year or less, Reading Assist:

- Brings students to benchmark in foundational reading skills
- Accelerates the pace in which students learn

HOW WE ASSESS STUDENTS:

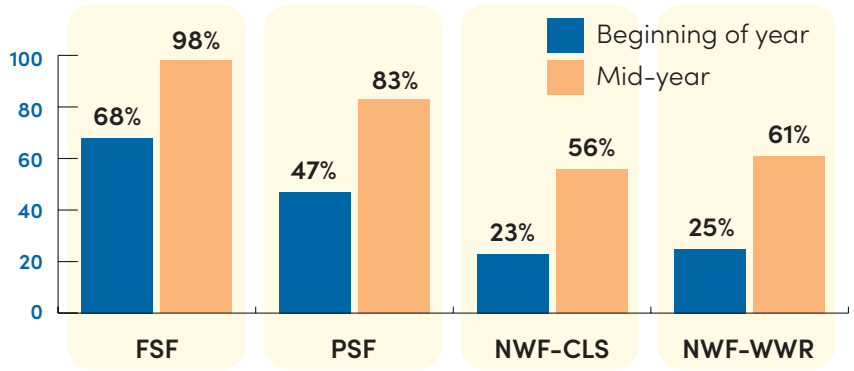
Reading Assist uses Acadience (also known as DIBELS Next) to assess early literacy and reading skills for students. Benchmark testing is administered at grade level three times per year by an independent evaluator.

When schools moved to virtual instruction, Reading Assist had completed the mid-year benchmark assessments. Based on guidance from Acadience and other state testing boards, Reading Assist decided to forgo year-end benchmark testing.

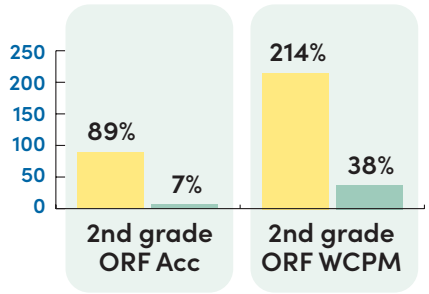
FOUNDATIONAL READING ASSESSMENTS INCLUDE:

- First Sound Fluency (FSF)
- Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (PSF)
- Nonsense Word Fluency - Correct Letter Sounds (NWF-CLS)
- Nonsense Word Fluency - Whole Words Read (NWF-WWR)
- Oral Reading Fluency - Accuracy (ORF Acc)
- Oral Reading Fluency - Words Correct Per Minute (ORF WCPM)

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS (ALL GRADES) WHO REACHED BENCHMARK ON FOUNDATIONAL READING EXAMS*



2019-20 RATE OF PROGRESS*



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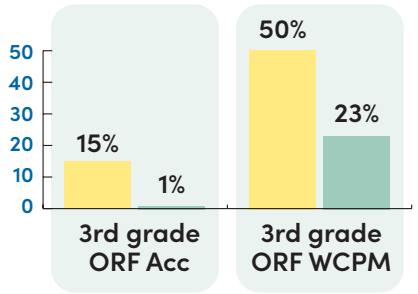


Actual rate of progress Expected rate of progress

* The mid-year data we gathered about our students was similar to what we have seen in previous years. Based on this data, we are confident projecting that a significant majority of our students would again hit benchmark and see even greater acceleration in their learning.

Miss Amanda and Miss Sally have moved mountains with our son and his reading skills. Your program has been invaluable to our family and we are so very grateful for your teachers and organization!

- Reading Assist parent

Virtual Learning

When Delaware schools closed on March 16 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Reading Assist quickly developed a creative online solution — using online versions of the books, letter tiles, and sound manipulation tools students are used to seeing during their in-person instruction time — so our fellows could continue their one-on-one intervention.

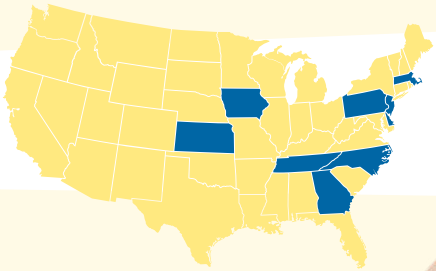
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WE WERE ABLE TO CONVERT TO ONLINE INTERVENTION:	9 out of 10
% OF FELLOWS WHO WERE ENGAGED WITH STUDENTS ONLINE:	100%
AVERAGE NUMBER OF WEEKS OF ONLINE INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS:	7

Our Fellows

Reading Assist provides the most comprehensive training of any literacy-based AmeriCorps program. Fellows receive over 100 hours of training through our accredited reading intervention program.

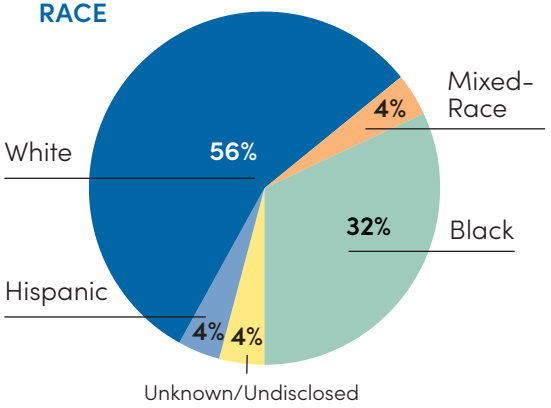
NUMBER OF FELLOWS TRAINED THIS YEAR: 23

WHERE DID OUR FELLOWS COME FROM?:

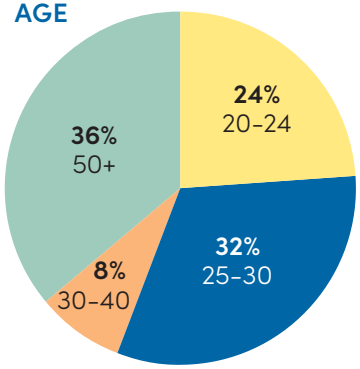


2019-20 Fellows Demographic Information

RACE



AGE



Alumni

One year of training prepares fellows for endless opportunities.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

- Landmark School (Beverly, MA), teacher
- Thomas Edison Charter School (Wilmington), special education teacher
- University of Delaware, master's in public policy program
- Case Western Reserve University, master's in social work program
- Rodel Foundation of Delaware, policy associate
- Vanderbilt University Law School

I am an AmeriCorps member because I truly wanted to give back to the community. I have a true passion for helping students learn to read because reading is the foundation of all other learning. I believe we can strengthen communities by starting with our kids.

-Lynn, 2019-20 Fellow

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READING ASSIST® INSTITUTE

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

P: (302) 425-4080
www.readingassist.org