



When Arizona Reads, Arizona Thrives.



Read On Phoenix

Mission:

Read On Phoenix is a public/private partnership of community stakeholders dedicated to ensuring that every child will have the skills and resources necessary to read at or above grade level by the end of third grade by collectively targeting supports and effective practices to advance educational equity.

Vision:

Every child will have the skills needed to read proficiently by the end of third grade to ensure future success in school, career and life.

Values Statement:

- Data-driven decision making
- Effective, research-informed strategies that are linguistically and culturally responsive
- Collaboration and intentional alignment and leveraging of existing services and resources
- Quality, effectiveness and fidelity to implementation
- Impact and continuous improvement for all

Strategic Areas of Focus:

Based on stakeholder feedback, the Read On Phoenix framework will work to connect and build on existing infrastructure and strategies that impact grade level reading scores in Phoenix and will include these core strategies:

- **School Readiness:** The school readiness work group includes key stakeholders that implement intentional, effective literacy practices in homes, early childhood settings, school and the community. Arizona's young children will demonstrate school readiness through the Essential Domains of Language and Literacy development, Cognition and General Knowledge (including early mathematics and early scientific development), Approaches to Learning (curiosity, initiative, persistence, creativity, problem-solving and confidence), Physical Well-Being and Motor Development and Self-Regulation of Attention and Emotion (including Social and Emotional Development). School Readiness is defined as the preparedness of young children, ages 0-5, to successfully enter school with the skills and knowledge for future success.
- **Family Engagement:** The family engagement work group includes key stakeholders that implement culturally competent programs in homes, early childhood settings, school and the community that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships, and the ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike. Family engagement is defined as parent/caregivers taking new knowledge and changing their behaviors and routines to support language and literacy outcomes.
- **Out-of-School Time (OST) Literacy Enrichment:** The OST work group includes strategies and programs that extend learning outside of the traditional school day including before/after-school, summer and weekend activities. These programs should include an academic

component, which can range from minimal academic content, such as supervised time for students to complete their homework or receive homework assistance to more intensive tutoring or remedial classes focused on specific subjects, such as reading or math. Programs also include sports, open recreation, games, and healthy snacks.

Overall Strategies

- Create common performance measures that identify parent attitudes and knowledge, program progress, etc.
- Create common messaging for those working with children and families
- Increase volunteer opportunities specifically targeting intentional literacy services.
- Collect and analyze absenteeism data and identify resources, programs and tools for schools and parents.
- Identify key effective professional development for educators and care givers of children from birth to age 8.
- Identify, disseminate and coordinate funding opportunities.
- Advocate and bring awareness to have funders support effective practices.

School Readiness New Strategies

- Increase access to high-quality and developmentally appropriate early childhood programs that help prepare students for school.
- Identify resources, programs and tools through asset mapping in the targeted areas where children are most at risk of not passing 3rd grade reading.
- Increase coordination with early literacy programs (community hubs, etc.) and identify gaps in programming.
- Increase access to nutrition, physical activity, and health care services to ensure students are prepared to learn.

Family Engagement Strategies

- Identify the needs of the families to help support parents as their child's first teacher.
- Identify programs that will fill the gaps to support the needs of the families for expansion of services.
- Increase, coordinate and align services to improve access to parent trainings, workshops and additional resources.
- Increase family knowledge about Out of School Time, Attendance, and School readiness.
- Establish stronger kindergarten transition for families.

Out of School Time Strategies:

- Identify and align extended learning services to ensure connection to the school day via program, practice, professional development and data collection.
- Establish a set of literacy expectations for after school programs that extend the school day.
- Promote and ensure summer learning programs are coordinated.
- Create a toolkit to help programs get funding for OST literacy.
- Increase quality in extended learning programs by coordinating and working with Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence to ensure quality standards and self-assessments are being implemented.

Strategic Goal:

Close the learning gap among economically disadvantaged youth by increasing reading proficiency by 8%.