



Florida’s Grade Level Reading Campaign

There is a national movement to organize states in addressing one of the country’s largest challenges – grade level reading.

- Reading proficiency by 3rd grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success.
- Proficiency in reading by the end of 3rd grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn, and to master the more complex subject matter they encounter in the 4th grade curriculum.
- Although schools must be accountable for helping all children achieve, providing effective teaching for all children in every classroom every day, the National Grade Level Reading (GLR) Campaign is based on the belief that schools cannot succeed alone.
- Engaged communities mobilized to remove barriers, expand opportunities, and assist parents in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities to serve as full partners in the success of their children are needed to assure student success.

Goal: By 2020, a dozen states or more will increase by at least 100% the number of low-income children reading proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

To help Florida be among these states and achieve this goal - the Florida Children’s Council is working with the National Grade Level Reading Campaign to create a statewide movement to help promote school readiness and quality instruction, tackle chronic absence, and improve summer learning, as well as engage parents as their children’s first teachers.

12 Communities in Florida have GLR Campaigns

Delray Beach	Gainesville	Hillsborough	Indian River	Jacksonville	Manatee
Martin	Miami-Dade	Orlando	Palm Beach	Sarasota	Tallahassee

Additionally, four communities are working on developing or enhancing community plans including: **Brevard, Broward, Pinellas, and St. Lucie** Counties. These 16 established communities will form the foundation of a statewide campaign, putting Florida in a strong position to implement a successful statewide effort.

Connecting People: Synergy, Alignment, and Mobilizing Efforts

The Florida GLR Campaign, funded by the Helios Education Foundation, will develop four networks anchored in the tenants of the Grade Level Reading Campaign:

- 1) **Network of Community Leaders**—a learning community to share best practices and efforts to support improved outcomes for children. The work and associated outcomes will be used as demonstration opportunities of what can and should be accomplished statewide;
- 2) **Early Childhood Thought Leaders**—working from analysis on current state investments, child development research, proven system development strategies, and community efforts early childhood experts will develop a platform for systemic change that is focused on improved child and family outcomes;
- 3) **Florida Business Leaders Alliance**—in partnership with the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the business sector will work to increase the prominence, funding, and understanding of critical early childhood initiatives; and
- 4) **Funders Collaborative**—convening key funders that are committed to improving child/family outcomes and education, both community and state efforts will be advanced by organizing a collaborative of current and potential funders.

By anchoring this work in the Grade Level Reading framework, the Florida Campaign will organize existing efforts and expand the work to improve coordination and alignment of work and make significant progress on grade-level reading outcomes for children.

For more information visit www.flchildrenscouncil.org.

