

RAISING READERS TOGETHER | LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

ENG SPA

# BEST PRACTICES AND A SHARED WORCESTER RESPONSE

APRIL 10, 2024

Worcester  
Education  
Collaborative 



Worcester Family  
Partnership



WORCESTER  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EDWARD  
STREET

THANK YOU TO OUR

PLANNING PARTNERS



WORCESTER EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

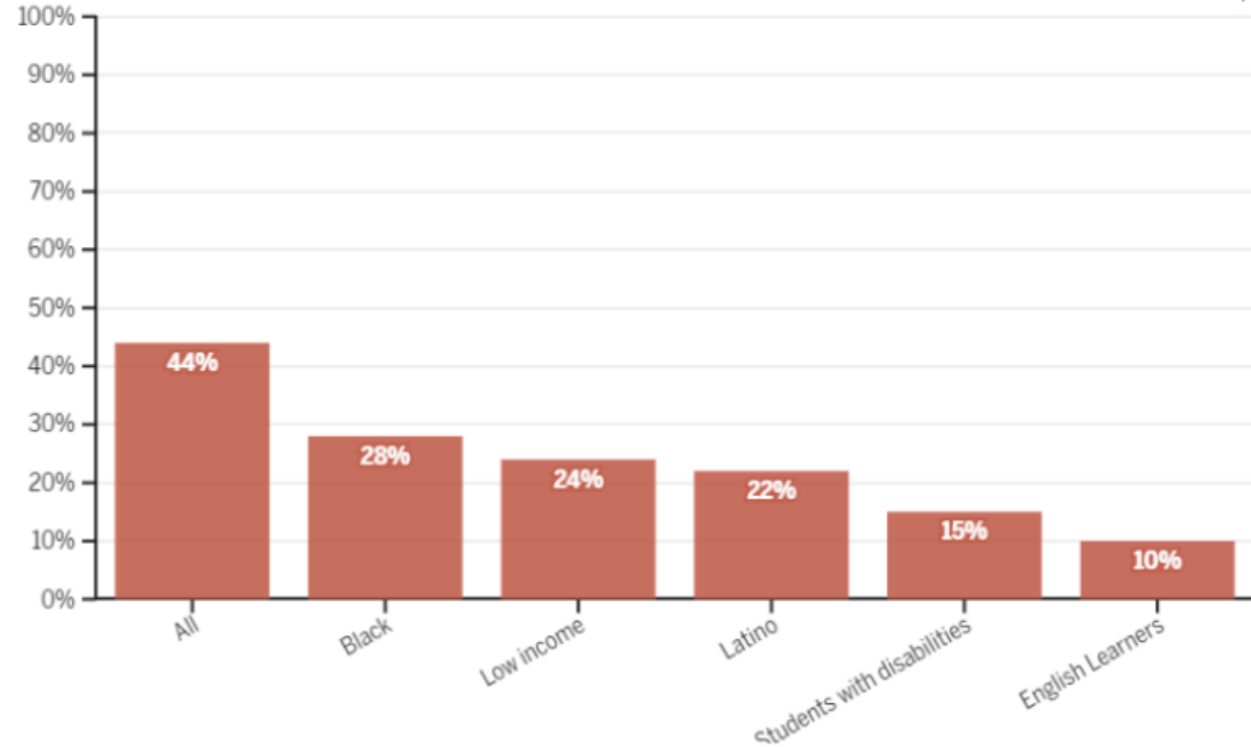
# The Problem

**Less than half** of third-graders are proficient in English language arts, according to 2023 MCAS data.

Outcomes were significantly worse among Black and Latino students, English learners, students from low-income families, and students with disabilities.

(Ron Noble, National Council on Teacher Quality, citing DESE data)

Percent meeting/exceeding expectations, third grade ELA MCAS CHRISTOPHER HUFFAKER/GLOBE STAFF



In Worcester, a mere **1 in 4** 3rd graders are proficient  
Worcester's ELA curriculum as of 2022 was not considered high quality  
(Amanda Taylor, WPS ELA Liaison, citing DESE data)

# The Solutions

## How is Massachusetts performing on the five state policy actions?

Massachusetts ranks **above** the national average.

1	Sets specific, detailed reading standards for teacher prep programs	<b>Strong</b>
2	Reviews teacher prep programs to ensure they teach the science of reading	<b>Moderate</b>
3	Adopts a strong reading licensure test	<b>Strong</b>
4	Requires districts to select high-quality reading curriculum	<b>Moderate</b>
5	Provides professional learning for teachers and ongoing support to sustain the implementation of the science of reading	<b>Moderate</b>

(RON NOBLE, NATIONAL COUNCIL ON TEACHER QUALITY)

WPS is adopting a new, high-quality, science-based curriculum called “Amplify”

“All of my students are so engaged during all components of the curriculum. Students who don't usually participate are raising their hands to answer questions. Students feel empowered and I am seeing evidence that they are learning.”

- WPS Grade 4 Teacher

(AMANDA TAYLOR, WPS ELA LIAISON)



# Literacy Programs in Worcester

**1,000 Books Before Kindergarten**  
Worcester Public Library  
Ages 0-Kindergarten entry  
The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program encourages families to read 1,000 books with their young children before they enter kindergarten.

**Bookmobile Lilly**  
Worcester Public Library  
Grades PreK-12  
Lilly is a Mobile Library with books, audiobooks, and DVDs for preschoolers through teenagers, story time kits for parents, and early learning kits. Lilly runs on a four-week schedule, Monday-Friday.

**Public Storytime**  
Worcester Public Library  
Grades PreK-12  
The WPL offers story and playtimes for children.

**Summer Read-Alouds**  
Boys & Girls Club of Worcester  
Ages 8-18  
Community volunteers read books to Boys & Girls Club kids on-site or virtually as a part of the summer literacy program in July and August.

**Little Free Libraries**  
All ages  
Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization intended to expand access to books. Scan the QR code on the back for a map of Little Free Libraries in your community.

**Free Literacy & ESL Tutoring/Classes**  
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester  
Adults  
The program offers a variety of language-focused courses and tutoring designed to enhance the reading, writing, listening, and speaking abilities of adult refugees and immigrant students.

**Reading Together**  
Worcester Education Collaborative  
Grades K-5  
Reading Together gives four grade-level curriculum-aligned books to each student in seven Worcester elementary schools, along with tools for parents and caregivers to support students' learning.

**Summer Literacy Initiative**  
United Way and the Seven Hills Foundation  
Grades K-4  
The SLI emphasizes literacy skills through fun and engaging summer activities and curriculum, including summer camps with embedded literacy coaches. Program results since summer of 2010 show that 85 - 90% of participating children avoid summer learning loss.

(AMANDA WAGNER, HANOVER RESEARCH)

& many more!

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# Agenda

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**Best Practices for Parent and Community Engagement in Supporting Student Literacy** | Amanda Wagner,  
Director, K12 Research & Professional Services, Hanover Research

**Panel Discussion** | Jason Homer, Executive Director, Worcester Public Library  
Beth Vietze, Coordinator, Worcester Family Partnership  
Kim Davenport, Vice President of Initiatives & Aligned Programs, Edward Street

Facilitator: Noe Medina, Facilitator, Worcester Education Equity Roundtable

**Closing Remarks** | Jennifer Davis Carey, WEC Executive Director





# THANK YOU

CONTINUE PROMOTING LITERACY WITH US:

## COMMUNITY FILM SCREENING



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 | 5:15PM**

AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT WORCESTER [RSVP HERE](#)

## RAISING **READERS TOGETHER**

A Reading Event for the Whole Family

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

10:00am - 12:00pm

**YMCA CENTRAL COMMUNITY  
BRANCH**

[SEE HERE FOR FLYERS IN 6 LANGUAGES  
TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES](#)

