

## COMMUNITY PARTNER STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENT LITERACY



### PARTNER WITH SCHOOLS



- **Collaboration:** Community entities can align with the district's literacy mission and vision, providing services that schools themselves cannot. They can collaborate with educational leaders to create new programs, resources, or services that enhance literacy learning for all students.
- **Field Trips and Cooperative Programming:** Community organizations can work with schools to create cooperative programs and field trips that focus on building literacy skills.
- **Support for District Literacy Initiatives:** Community entities can collaborate with schools to support literacy initiatives. For example, distributing books to families, tutoring students, or participating in programs like the Louisville Growing Readers Program.



### OFFER LITERACY SERVICES AND RESOURCES



- **Reading Partner or Tutoring Volunteers:** Community members, including high school students, college students, and senior citizens, can serve as volunteers in reading partner programs or as tutors to help students build reading and writing skills.
- **Out-of-School Assistance:** Community organizations can refer families of students who need extra assistance in reading or writing to community agencies that provide out-of-school assistance, as well as offer after school support with reading, homework, or tutoring.
- **Supporting Multilingual Families:** Community organizations can provide resources and books to accommodate families who speak diverse home languages, promoting literacy through transfer skills from one language to another.



### FACILITATE INTERACTIVE LITERACY ACTIVITIES



- **Offer Literacy Opportunities and Support:** Community organizations can help students build literacy skills by engaging them in interactive activities such as reading aloud to family members, discussing comprehension with family members, providing materials for summer reading, and assigning or helping with interactive literacy homework.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR LITERACY IN ACTION



**Reading Partners** offers in-person and virtual tutoring to low-income Grades K-4 students across the U.S. who are 0.5-2.5 years behind grade level in reading.

The program turns classrooms into reading centers, collaborates with teachers to support personalized literacy instruction, and trains volunteers to provide weekly, one-on-one tutoring.



Scan this code to learn more about Reading Partners!



The **Louisville Growing Readers Program**, a collaboration between Jefferson County Public Schools, Metro United Way, the National Center for Families Learning, and other Ready for K Alliance partners, supports literacy for students aged 4-6 by shipping culturally relevant books to over 5,000 students weekly and providing a digital library.



Scan this code to learn more about Louisville Growing Readers!

## THE 5 C'S OF SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### COMMON PURPOSE



- The partnership supports a shared set of goals established by both participants and aligned with partners' mission and vision.
- The community partner understands the school's vision for expanding learning time, including its schoolwide instructional focus.
- The partnership supports a documented set of desired outcomes for students.
- The school and partners have a system in place to determine whether the desired outcomes have been met.

### COMPLEMENTARY CONTENT



- Community partners meet an unmet need at the school, providing a service, program, or resource that the school can't provide.
- Community partners collaborate with teachers and school staff to align enrichment curriculum with that of core classroom content.
- Programming aligns with the state curriculum standards and schoolwide achievement goals.

### COMMUNICATION



- Clear, consistent communication occurs on two levels: between the leader of the school and the leader of the community partner and between the teachers and staff who work directly with students.
- Expectations are clearly communicated in the planning and implementation phases of the partnership, including the roles and responsibilities of each partner.
- Leaders from the school and community partner meet and communicate regularly to monitor the partnership and systems are in place for teachers and community partners to communicate regularly.

### CUSTOMIZED PARTNERSHIP



- Partners adapt existing or create new programming to meet the needs and goals of students.
- Partners are informed about the specific needs of the school's population and strive for cultural competency of that population.

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



- The partnership is a multiyear endeavor with both partners sharing responsibilities for relationship building, fundraising, and continuous improvement.
- Partners provide opportunities for teachers and community partner staff to build collegial relationships.
- Planning for financial sustainability is ongoing and collaborative.
- Systems are established to ensure the partnership continues if there is a change in leadership.
- Partners develop a multiyear vision for integrating the community partner into the school.