



# Reading & Allowed



**IMPACT  
REPORT  
2019-22**

*Reading is a right,  
not a privilege.*

## MISSION

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Our mission is to provide struggling readers of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay, with individualized evidence based structured literacy instruction in schools, prisons and communities, delivered by highly trained instructors. We are dedicated to promptly identifying children at risk of reading failure, providing appropriate instruction and sharing the tools to implement best practices.

## STAFF

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Angela Marks M.Ed / Executive Director  
Kara Fisher / Chief Operating Officer  
Katie McShane / Program Manager  
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Ami LaRoche / Program Manager

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KIPP Philadelphia

Since 2019,  **Reading & Allowed** is the only nonprofit in Philadelphia providing literacy instruction delivered by educators certified and experienced in a structured literacy approach.

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

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Dear Friends,

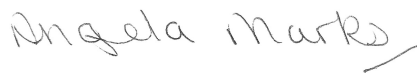
It is with great pleasure and optimism that we present our impact report. Since our founding in 2019, Reading Allowed has grown exponentially and we are now offering our comprehensive structured literacy services to more than 250 students. Our growth has been made possible by collaborating with schools and community organizations and by continually reevaluating our strategic planning process, which strengthens and renews our founding commitment to literacy as both a fundamental right and social justice issue.

As Reading Allowed expands, we are boosting the ability of our programs to reach more individuals at risk of reading failure and in 2023 we will begin to address the critical literacy needs of incarcerated individuals in our region. This inspiring new growth demonstrates our ambition and our commitment to changing the course of every student's life until we have a city where every person who struggles with reading can achieve their full potential and succeed in school and in life.

As you read this report, please know how important you are to our mission — whether as a donor, volunteer, instructor, educator, corporate or foundation partner, or an advocate. Many of you have been on this journey with us since the beginning. Your involvement is vitally important to Reading Allowed's continuing growth and service. We cannot do what we do without you.

We hope you will take great pride in seeing the progress and impact that Reading Allowed has achieved. Thank you for your partnership and support!

With our deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Marks".

**Angela Marks, M.Ed**  
Founder & Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meghan Fotopoulos".

**Meghan Fotopoulos**  
President, Board of Directors

# READING ALLOWED: STOPPING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE



Just 36% of Philadelphia students are reading proficiently.



Approximately 77% of Black and Hispanic students in the U.S are not reading proficiently.



85% of juveniles who interact with the juvenile court system are low literate.

## HERE'S HOW READING ALLOWED IS CHANGING THESE STATISTICS



**88%**

revenue increase in the past 12 months, ending 9/30/22



**82%**

increase in number of students served



**60%**

increase in number of employees in 2022



**\$313,643**

grant funding received as of 9/30/22



## BY THE NUMBERS



**250+**

students  
currently  
served



**5**

schools and community  
organizations in which  
Reading Allowed  
works with teachers  
and students



are served in schools/  
community centers



are served one-on-one

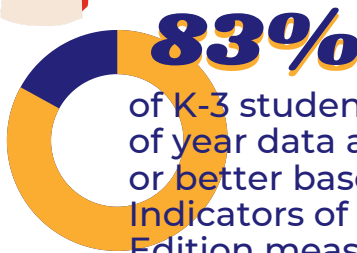


**50+**

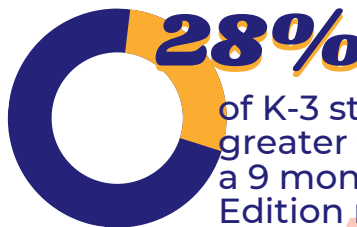
Structured literacy  
certified instructors

**18**

individuals funded to receive  
Wilson® Reading System  
certification and instruction in  
the Science of Reading



of K-3 students with beginning and end  
of year data are growing at an average rate  
or better based on the DIBELS (Dynamic  
Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) 8th  
Edition measures



of K-3 students with data achieved  
greater than 24 months of growth in  
a 9 month period on DIBELS 8th  
Edition measures

**>14.6**

months of growth K-3rd students with  
data gained in a 9 month period on  
average in the same measures as  
above

# SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

*Reading Allowed provides services to the following schools and organizations:*

Mastery Charter Schools

Francis Scott Key School

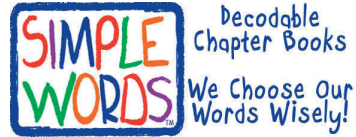
Visitation BVM School

General George G. Meade School

Community Center at Visitation - Kensington

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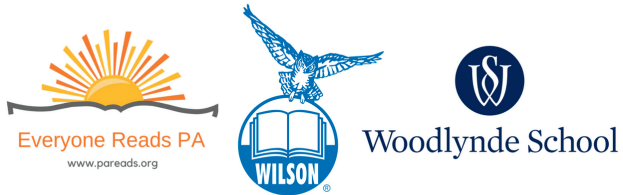


## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### READING ALLOWED SPEAKER SERIES

Reading Allowed kicked off its Speaker Series in October 2022 with “Literacy is a Social Justice Issue.” These events will bring awareness of and discuss solutions for the devastating problem of illiteracy in Philadelphia that exacerbates existing issues of racial and economic inequality.

### SPEAKER SERIES SPONSORS



Barbara E. Cohen, M.D. & Martin S. Polinsky, M.D.  
Meghan & Anthony Fotopoulos  
Tal Pipano & Valerie Brand Pipano  
Sarian Strategic Partners

### WILSON READING SYSTEM® CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Through a generous grant from The William Penn Foundation and other donors, Reading Allowed is expanding and diversifying its pool of structured literacy instructors by funding the certification of 18 individuals.

### SCIENCE OF READING COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Reading Allowed co-sponsors this group to enable teachers and literacy leaders to meet to share ideas, challenges, resources, and research about all things literacy related—from writing to close reading, from anti-racist teaching to culturally responsive education, and from engaging students virtually to meeting the needs of our students who struggle.

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This list represents all gifts made to Reading Allowed since its founding in September 2019, as of November 16, 2022. Recurring donors are indicated with and asterisk (\*) following their names.

We make every effort to be accurate, and apologize for any errors. Please contact us at [info@readingallowed.org](mailto:info@readingallowed.org) to correct and update our records for names, amounts, and any other reason.

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR READING ALLOWED?

## EXPANSION OF OUR WILSON READING SYSTEM® CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:

In 2023, we plan to steadily increase the number of certified instructors to support our growing number of students.

## THE RIGHT TO READ FILM SCREENING:

We will host a screening of this film which shares the stories of a courageous activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read.

## CONTINUATION OF OUR SPEAKER SERIES:

This series of virtual and in-person events featuring presenters in education, literacy, and social justice will continue in 2023.

Monday, January 16, 2023

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

Resha Conroy

Founder and Chairperson

Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children

Thursday, February 23:

Reading Allowed Open House

Wednesday, April 12, 2023:

Deborah Gordon Klehr

Executive Director

Education Law Center

June, 2023:

Date and speaker to be determined

CONNECT WITH **Reading Allowed**

[www.readingallowed.org](http://www.readingallowed.org)

267.571.1282

[info@readingallowed.org](mailto:info@readingallowed.org)



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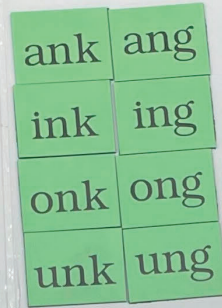
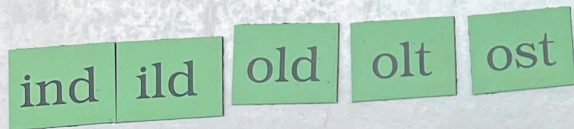
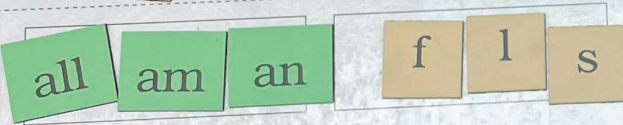
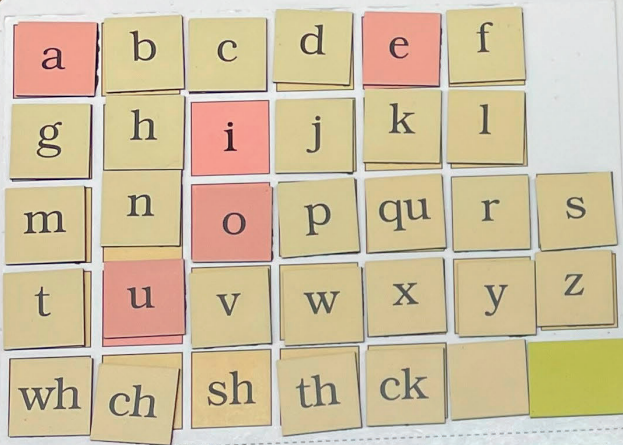


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# Reading & Allowed

On behalf of our students,  
families, and instructors:  
thank you.

