

IMPACT REPORT 2023



Dear Friends,

It is with pride and hope that we present our 2023 Impact Report. In 2024, we will be celebrating our fifth year and it's a time to reflect on what we have accomplished and what we hope to achieve going forward. Since 2019, 80 instructors have impacted more than 560 students and in 2023, we delivered 12,236 hours of instruction. We are so proud of what we have accomplished and yet there is a lot of work still to be done.

2023 was a year for strengthening existing partnerships and for developing new ones to improve and increase the impact of our services. We have nurtured our continuing relationships with schools such as Meade, Visitation BVM and Mastery-Wister Campus and are establishing new partnerships with organizations such as ESF Dream Camp and Moffett Elementary. We're excited to share updates about continuing and new programs in 2024.

As always, it is the high quality of our instruction that sets us apart and we made it a priority in 2023 to provide professional development and coaching opportunities for our instructors so that we can continue to bring the most up to date literacy research to our students.

We are humbled, grateful and honored by the incredible support we have received and continue to receive and we will work tirelessly to provide the highest quality structured literacy instruction to as many students as possible regardless of their financial circumstances.

With our deepest gratitude,



Angela Marks, M. Ed
Founder & Executive Director



Meghan Fotopoulos
President, Board of Directors

Mission

The mission of Reading Allowed is to provide struggling readers of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay, with individualized evidence based structured literacy instruction in schools and communities, delivered by highly trained instructors.

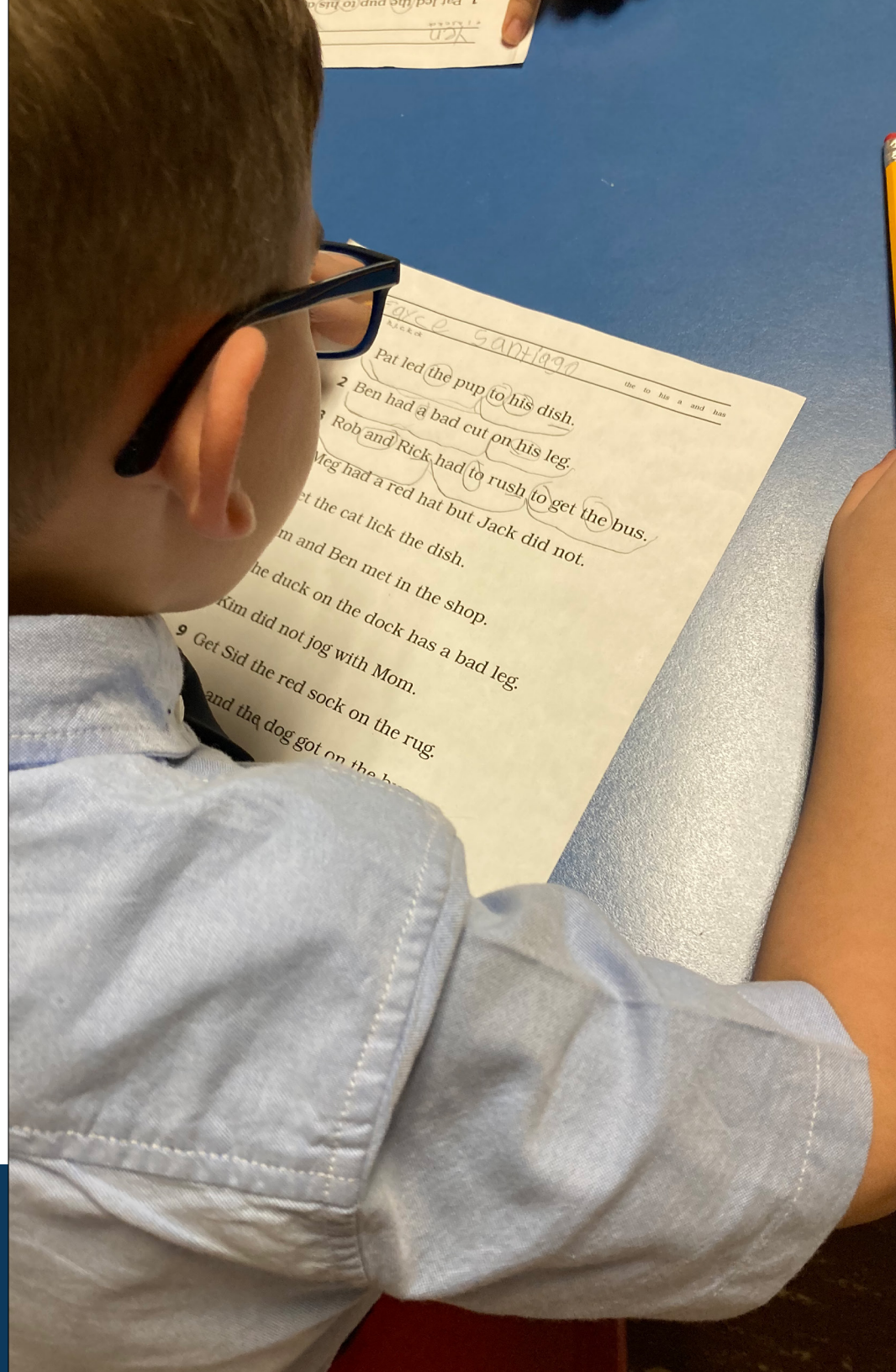
We are dedicated to promptly identifying children at risk of reading failure, providing appropriate instruction and sharing the tools to implement best practices.

Staff

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Angela Marks, M. Ed | Executive Director |
| Kara Fisher | Chief Operating Officer |
| Jen Curyto | Full-time Instructor |
| Ami LaRoche | Program Manager |
| Alisa Boone | Full-time Instructor |
| Richard Huber | Administrative Specialist |

Board

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
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| Valerie Brand Pipano | Attorney |
| John Santangelo | Financial Consultant |
| Natalie Wiltshire | Chief Executive Officer, KIPP Philadelphia |



Our vision is a Philadelphia where every struggling reader has equitable access to the most effective literacy support.

Why We Do What We Do

38%



Of Philadelphia students are reading at a proficient level.

21%



Of Philadelphia students living in poverty are reading at a proficient level.

95%



Of students can learn to read proficiently when provided with high quality structured literacy instruction.

85%



Of students interacting with the juvenile justice system are low literate.

What Makes Our Programs Unique?

High-Dosage literacy instruction; Wilson Reading System® Training; and focus on those most in need.

Reading Allowed is the **ONLY** literacy non-profit in Philadelphia to provide High-Dosage literacy instruction delivered by practitioners certified and experienced in structured literacy-based programs.



High-Dosage tutoring is one of the most effective ways to increase achievement for students from lower income families.



Students from low-income families are more likely to begin school already behind their more affluent peers and face challenges catching up.



Scientific research shows that High-Dosage tutoring can produce large learning gains for a wide range of students, including those who have fallen behind academically.

Individual Structured Literacy Tutoring



Reading Allowed is the **ONLY** non-profit in Philadelphia to provide one-on-one structured literacy services on a sliding scale.



In 2023, Reading Allowed's 80+ certified instructors served 170+ students across Philadelphia ranging from kindergartners to adults. Services were delivered in schools, libraries, community centers, and virtually.



We are very grateful for the Reading Allowed support to our Granddaughter, Daylin. Lorraine Smith has been a superb teacher. Daylin has made great strides through the Reading Allowed program

This year has been extremely challenging starting Jr High. It is only through Reading Allowed that Daylin has learned to read.

- Nancy Delozier, Grandparent

In-School Partner Programs



Reading Allowed partners with schools across Philadelphia to provide affordable structured literacy services.



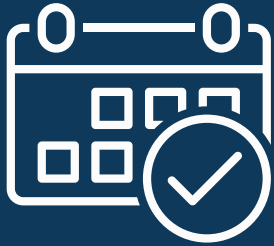
In 2023, Reading Allowed expanded its in-school program to more schools. We served 150+ students attending schools in the School District of Philadelphia, charter, and Catholic schools in under-served neighborhoods.



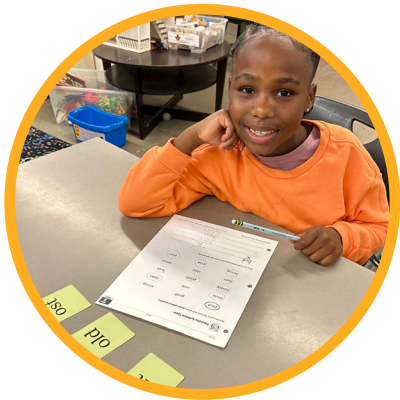
Reading Allowed is such a joy to have in the building... They come with the expertise to do the one-on-one work that we just don't have the staff to do. They never drop the ball and continue their work throughout the summertime so that students can come back and pick up where they left off.

- Akeere Scott-Mack, Principal. General G. Meade School

Reading Allowed: By The Numbers



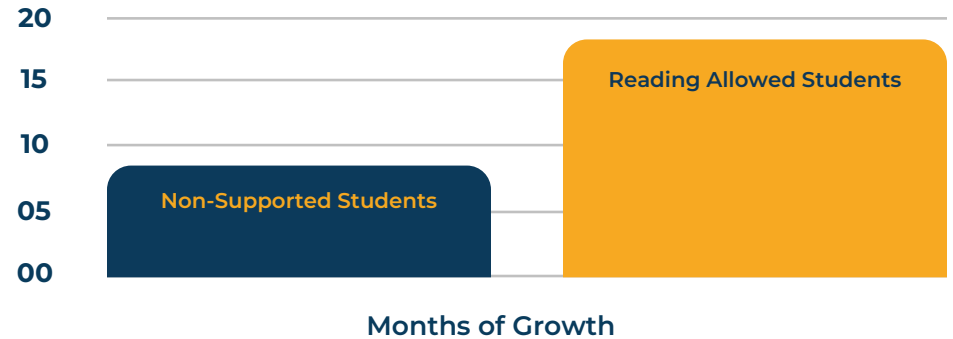
Our sliding scale 4th graders gained, on average **7.3 months of growth** in oral reading fluency **in the first four months** of this school year.



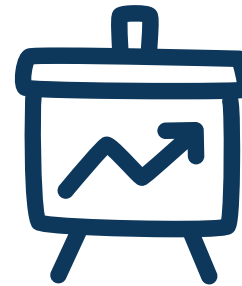
The changes I see in [my student's] academic performance, confidence and interest are invaluable. I was completely unsettled when we first found out about his [dyslexia] diagnosis. Now, seeing him bridge the gap to grade level reading puts me completely at ease! I hope that educators and parents will recognize the need for reading intervention techniques early and often.

- Joy Barnosky, RA parent

Reading Allowed 1st Grade Student Growth:
2022/2023 Academic Year Average Process*



*DIBELS Nonsense Word Fluency- Words Recorded Correctly



School-based students progressed at a rate **7.8 times faster** than the norm. Reading Allowed students often begin their school year with a big deficit, and our instruction enables them to close the gap as fast as possible.

“When we met, this 15 year old 8th grader was very far behind. Now he can figure out how to break down words and get better grades. He got 100 on his reading and spelling test. He said he tapped things out and was figuring out how to break down the words, and that’s why he was able to do so well! Of course, I was over the moon, jumping out of my seat to learn this... I LOVE MY JOB!!!!



- Katie Brindley, RA Instructor

318

Total students served directly in 2023.

569

Total students served directly since founding Reading Allowed in 2019.

81%

Approx. percentage of our students who are classified as low or moderate income.

90%

Percentage of students who reside in Philadelphia and attend Philadelphia public, private, and charter schools.

89

Reading Allowed
Instructors in 2023

30

Wilson Scholarship
Recipients Since 2022

12,236

Total Tutoring Hours
Delivered in 2023

Awards and Nominations

Greater Philadelphia 2024 Social Innovation Award
Free Library Foundation Community Impact Award
(below)

School and Community Partnerships

Community Partnership School
General George G. Meade School
Independence Charter School West
Mastery Charter Schools
Mt. Airy CDC
Village at Norristown
Visitation BVM School - Kensington



Reading Allowed: Professional Development

Reading Allowed is committed to providing the most up-to-date, **research-based** methods of literacy instruction.



In 2023, we provided many professional development opportunities and attended conferences so that we can continue to bring state-of-the-art literacy instruction to our students.

Reading Allowed also co-sponsors a monthly Literacy Community of Practice.

2023 Conferences

International Dyslexia Association National Conference
PA Dyslexia Awareness Day 2023
PBID Annual Conference



Scholarships for Instructor Training

Reading Allowed is the **ONLY** non-profit in Philadelphia to offer a Wilson Reading System® Instructor Training Program.



I (previously) spent four years in third grade having children come to me that were reading at a Kindergarten or 1st grade level. How much more I could have done with them had I had some of these strategies in my toolbox!

- *Jocelynn Norris, Wilson® Scholar*

Last year, with help from the **William Penn Foundation** and the **Caroline Alexander Buck Foundation** we were able to train 15 individuals from diverse backgrounds to become certified structured literacy practitioners.



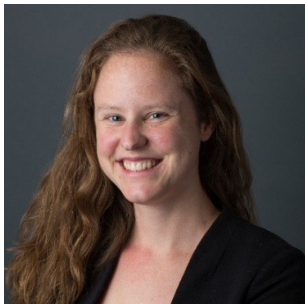
2023 Speakers and Special Events

Reading Allowed is committed to bringing **awareness and understanding** to the literacy crisis in Philadelphia.



Literacy is a Social Justice Issue

Featuring Resha Conroy, Founder and Chairperson of the Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children



Understanding Education Funding and Science of Reading Legislation in PA

Featuring Laura Boyce, Executive Director of Teach Plus Pennsylvania Programs



“The Right to Read” Fillmore Screening and Discussion

Reading Allowed co-sponsored a screening of “The Right to Read” followed by a panel discussion.

Basic Education Funding Commission



Reading Allowed Founder and Executive Director, Angela Marks, was honored to testify in front of the Basic Education Funding Commission.

We continued our partnerships with like-minded organizations to raise awareness of the literacy crisis in Philadelphia and to share ideas about how we can collaborate to ensure every student has access to the highest quality literacy instruction.



Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children

Donor List

Individuals

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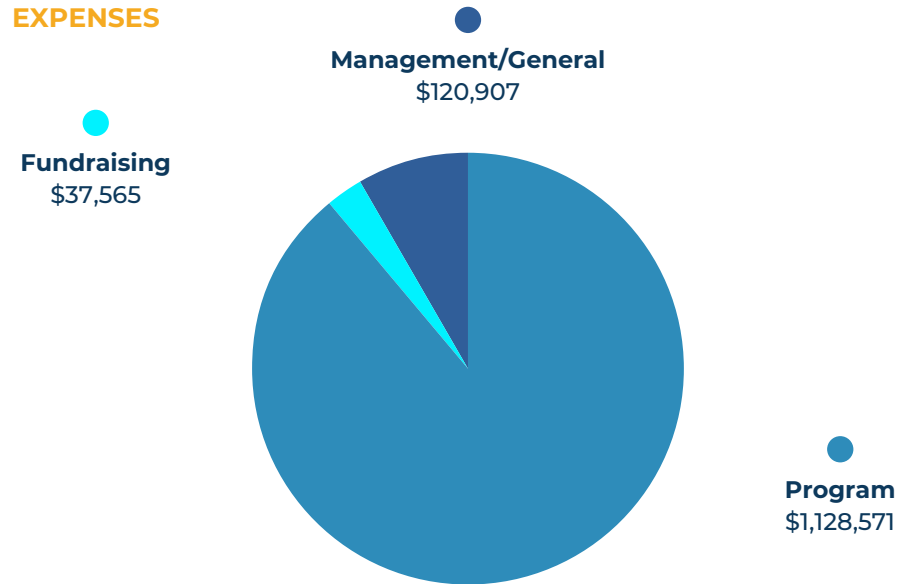
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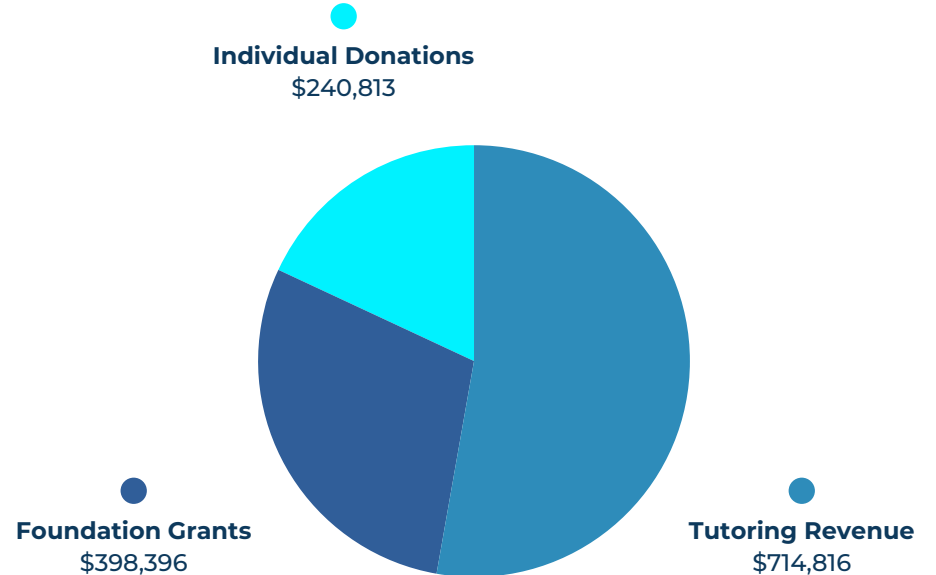
We make every effort to be accurate, and apologize for any errors. Please contact us at info@readingallowed.org to correct and update our records for names, amounts, and any other reason.

Financials

EXPENSES



INCOME



What's Next

- We will continue to collaborate with ESF Dream Camp to support students over the summer and through the school year.
- We will collaborate with Joyful Readers to support students at Moffett Elementary School.
- We will continue to diversify and expand our pool of tutors by funding more scholarships for Structured Literacy certification.
- We will continue to develop strategic partnerships with community, corporate, and non-profit partners.
- We will increase summer programming at General George G. Meade School to prevent summer slide.
- We will work with recently incarcerated adults.
- We will establish a Family Committee to build family engagement and community and to better serve the needs of our students.



Help our organization by giving today!
All donations go directly to changing
the literacy landscape.

*Donations to Reading Allowed are tax deductible
under section 501(c)3 of the IRS.*

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