

IMPACT REPORT

2024



“

*I would like him to be successful
and not another statistic.”*

— **Reading Allowed Parent**



Angela Marks, M. Ed
Founder & Executive Director



Stephanie Gambone
Board Chair
Since Jan. 1, 2025

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	Program Instructor
Ami LaRoche	Program Manager
Richard Huber	Administrative Specialist
Stephanie Antar	Program Instructor
Elizabeth Lyon	Program Instructor
Nancy Murawski	Program Instructor

Board

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Catherine Roder	Lead Performance Analyst, Vanguard
John Santangelo	Financial Consultant
Chrishana White	Director of Equity, Reading Partners



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

Reading Allowed: What We Do

Reading Allowed is the only literacy nonprofit in Philadelphia to provide structured literacy tutoring delivered by certified and experienced tutors.

Reading Allowed tutors are rigorously trained, closely-vetted professionals who are certified in the most effective methods of structured literacy practices based on scientific research such as the Wilson Reading System®. High quality structured literacy tutoring is otherwise cost-prohibitive for many students and we are committed to breaking down this barrier.

Reading Allowed ensures that this high-caliber instruction is accessible to all struggling readers, regardless of financial circumstances.

How We Do It



Individual Structured Literacy Tutoring:

We provide individual and group instruction to struggling readers of all ages. Tutoring rates are charged on a sliding scale that is based on household income.



In-School Partner Programs:

We partner with schools and community organizations to provide in-school individual and small group tutoring.



Professional Development:

We provide scholarships for educators to receive training in best structured literacy instructional practices and in the Wilson® Reading System.

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



Struggling readers need more than just extra practice—they need personalized support to build confidence and skills. One-on-one high-dosage tutoring provides the structured, research-backed intervention necessary to close literacy gaps.

In 2024, Reading Allowed's 100+ certified instructors served 200+ students across Philadelphia ranging from kindergartners to adults. Services were delivered in schools, libraries, community centers, and virtually.



“

I wanted to let you know that I could not have been more impressed and pleased. Courtney is an incredible educator. She is kind, patient, persistent and has an amazing heart. My son has progressed in so many areas due to the program and all the hard work that went into making this happen. I wanted to thank you for allowing my son to be a part of this amazing program.

- Joe Roche, Parent

In-School Partner Programs



In 2024, Reading Allowed expanded its in-school program to more schools. We served 180+ students attending schools in the School District of Philadelphia, charter, and Catholic schools in under-served neighborhoods.

School and Community Partnerships

Freire Charter School
General George G. Meade School
General Philip Kearny School
Mastery Charter School
Mastery Charter School - Wister Campus
Moffett Elementary School
Our Mother of Sorrows/St. Ignatius of Loyola
Visitation BVM School - Kensington



Joining forces with Reading Allowed is already making a positive difference in the lives of our students. We began a partnership with them this year which allows for struggling readers to receive one to one or small group instruction with highly qualified, dedicated tutors using research-based, explicit, and sequential programs.

Our improved reading data is a testament to their work!

- Jackie Naphys, General Phillip Kearny School

Professional Development



Reading Allowed is committed to bringing the most up to date techniques of literacy instruction to our students. We attended literacy conferences across the country and provided countless hours of coaching for our tutors.

In 2024, 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.



2024 Community Events

International Dyslexia Association National Conference
PA Dyslexia Awareness Day 2024
PBIDA Annual Conference
Plain Talk Conference - New Orleans
The Reading League Conference
Drexel University Science of Reading Day
Wilson Language Conference - Boston

Scholarships for Instructor Training

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

“

The professional benefits of receiving the Wilson scholarship have reached far beyond my personal experience. It has allowed me to not only provide crucial tutoring services to a student, but also allowed me to be a better teacher of reading instruction to all of my students.

– *Rachel Clarke, Tutor*



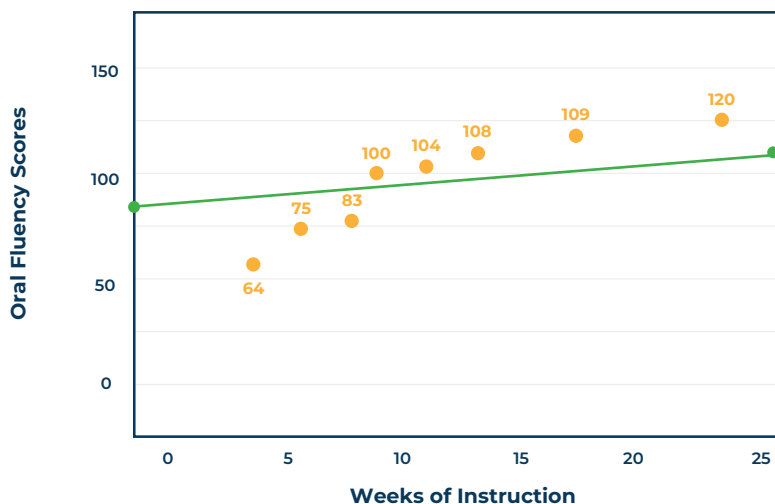
Reading Allowed: By The Numbers



At Reading Allowed, we set individual goals for each student. We collect initial and weekly data for every student to ensure our tutoring is effective and tailored to their individualized needs.

This continuous assessment allows us to track progress, adjust instruction in real time, and celebrate every milestone.

**Sample Reading Allowed
Student Goal Chart**



— Aimline to Goal

● Student Scores

↔ Weeks of Instruction

↑↓ Oral Fluency Scores (*Words Per-Minute*)



At General Meade School, our 3rd through 7th grade students gained word attack skills at an average rate that was **5.5 times greater** than the growth their peers made.

Unsupported Student Growth

Reading Allowed
Supported Student Growth

82%

of the students who attended our Meade School summer program made **“High Growth”** between the end of the 2023 school year and the start of the 2024 school year.



16,067

Total Tutoring Hours
Delivered in 2024

101

Reading Allowed
Instructors in 2024

32

Wilson Scholarship
Recipients Since 2019

331

Total students served
directly in 2024.

772

Total students served directly since
founding Reading Allowed in 2019.



Hello
my name is
TOYA



Our Five-Year Anniversary

This year, Reading Allowed proudly celebrates its 5th anniversary—five years of transforming lives through literacy.

Since our founding, we have been dedicated to ensuring that every child, regardless of financial circumstances, has access to the expert, individualized instruction they need to become confident, capable readers.

What began as a vision has grown into a thriving community of passionate tutors, determined students, and dedicated supporters. Together, we have provided thousands of hours of life-changing instruction, opened doors to new opportunities, and given the gift of literacy to those who need it most.

As we reflect on our journey, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who has made this milestone possible. Your support fuels our mission, and with your help, the next five years will be even more impactful. Here's to a future where every voice is heard, every story is read, and every learner is empowered!





“

The outpouring of story after story of transformation and immense gratitude from students, families and teachers for the work Reading Allowed has done, was matched only by the collective enthusiasm for Reading Allowed's mission. It was an inspiring and humbling celebration of Reading Allowed's impact in our world.

- Meghan Fotopoulos

Our Commitment to Advocacy

At Reading Allowed, we know that teaching a child to read is just one piece of the puzzle—true literacy equity requires systemic change. That’s why advocacy is at the heart of our mission.

We work tirelessly to raise awareness, inform policy, and amplify the voices of struggling readers so that every child has access to the evidence-based instruction they deserve. But we can't do it alone. Real change happens when educators, families, policymakers, and community members come together to demand better.

Through partnerships, outreach, and education, we are helping to shift the conversation around literacy, ensuring that reading instruction is grounded in science, accessible to all, and prioritized as a fundamental right.

Together, we can break down barriers, challenge outdated systems, and build a future where every child has the opportunity to succeed—because literacy is not a privilege; it’s a basic right.



Reading Allowed was honored to be represented alongside other PA literacy partners at the Harrisburg, PA Dyslexia Awareness Day.



READINGALLOWED.ORG

Angela Marks, founder and Executive Director of Reading Allowed, on WFMZ-TV to talk about the literacy crisis across America.

in 2024, 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.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA



Dyslexia Alliance for
Black Children



PENNSYLVANIA
LITERACY
COALITION



Teach For America
Greater Philadelphia



SquashSmarts
Giving Kids Their Best Shot!

CARMEL
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Merck Foundation
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PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency

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Foundations (Cont'd)

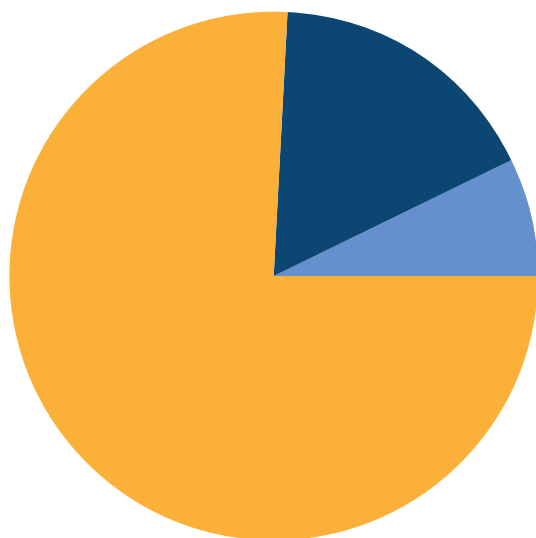
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Help our organization by giving today!
All donations go directly to changing
the literacy landscape.

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

Financials



EXPENSES



PROGRAM

\$ 1,755,067



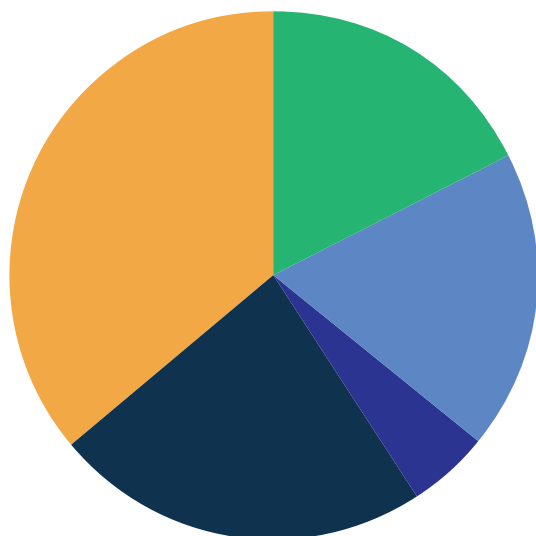
MANAGEMENT

\$232,224



FUNDRAISING

\$98,999



INCOME



SLIDING SCALE

\$451,506



SCHOOL CONTRACTS

\$468,341



STATE GRANTS

\$126,398



FOUNDATION GRANTS

\$591,400



INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

\$781,011

Reading Allowed: Goals & Future Plans

Sustainability & Long-Term Growth

- Expand partnerships with schools and community organizations to **broaden our impact** while maintaining program quality.
- Invest in professional development to ensure continuity and expertise in literacy education.

Expanding & Enhancing Programs

- Serve **more students**—projecting an increase from **400+ in 2025** through strategic program growth.
- Expand **high-dosage** tutoring programs in collaboration with school districts to maximize student outcomes.
- Continue investing in **data collection and evaluation** to measure program impact and refine instruction.
- **Increase scholarships** for tutors to enhance instructional expertise.
- **Expand summer programs** to ensure students continue making progress without interruption.
- **Strengthen advocacy** efforts to **support statewide literacy policies rooted in the Science of Reading**.

By focusing on **sustainability, financial health, program excellence, and community engagement**, Reading Allowed is well-positioned to continue making a transformative impact in literacy education.

Connect with Us

(267) 571-1282

info@readingallowed.org

www.readingallowed.org

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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.*

***Reading
Allowed***

