



THE LEARNING ALLIANCE
2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



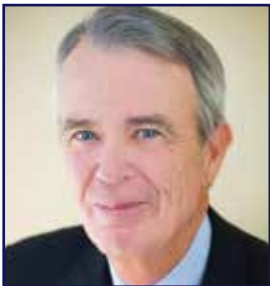
As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the progress we have made together. Your steadfast support has been vital in our journey, and I am eager to share the impact of our collective efforts.

For the second year in a row, the School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) has earned an “A” rating, and over the last four years moved from 38th to 9th, proudly ranking among the top 10 districts in the state of Florida. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our educators, students, and community partners. Our Moonshot Demonstration School, Vero Beach Elementary, improved its third grade literacy scores more than any other school and achieved a “B” ranking for the first time since 2013. This high-needs, Title 1 school, is on target to achieve an “A” over the next two years. The SDIRC’s third graders have once again exceeded the state average in reading proficiency with 64%, compared to 55% for the state, of students reading on grade level. This milestone is a crucial step toward our Moonshot goal: ensuring that 90% of students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade.

Thanks to your support The Learning Alliance serves over 4,500 students in our public schools, more than 400 dedicated educators, and 550 families with children ages birth - 5 years. Through our targeted programs, innovative teaching methods, and individualized support, we are making a significant difference in the educational experiences of both students and teachers.

Reading is not just the responsibility of schools and educators; reading is everyone’s business. Together, we are transforming from a wait-to-fail model to an early intervention and prevention model in partnership with our schools and community leaders. Our children deserve this.

Thank you for your enduring commitment and for being an integral part of this transformative journey. With your continued support, we look forward to achieving even greater milestones and making a lasting impact on our community.



With heartfelt appreciation,
Ray Oglethorpe

EARLY LITERACY BLUEPRINT



Mission: to transform our community's future and become a model for the nation by creating a culture in which 90% of our children read on grade level by the end of third grade.

Vision: for our children to become literate, compassionate, and creative citizens who will improve our world.

TLA's Early Literacy Blueprint provides a comprehensive approach to reaching our 90% literacy goal. By structuring our programs within four areas of impact, we ensure that every child has the opportunity to become a successful reader. This Blueprint was developed over the past decade as we learned the essential components that drive student achievement.

Excellence in Teaching: We offer educators ongoing coaching and support, across the district and in our Moonshot Demonstration School, ensuring the use of effective, evidence-based strategies to enhance reading skills and meet the diverse needs of our students.

Extended Learning for Students: Beyond the classroom, we offer additional learning opportunities through after-school programs, summer reading camps, and personalized tutoring.

Empowered Families: We actively engage families by offering resources, workshops, and strategies to support literacy development at home, empowering parents and caregivers to be active participants in their child's education.

Engaged Community and Leadership: We unite community partners and leaders around the Moonshot Goal of 90% literacy, creating a network for innovative literacy initiatives and programs because schools can't do it alone.

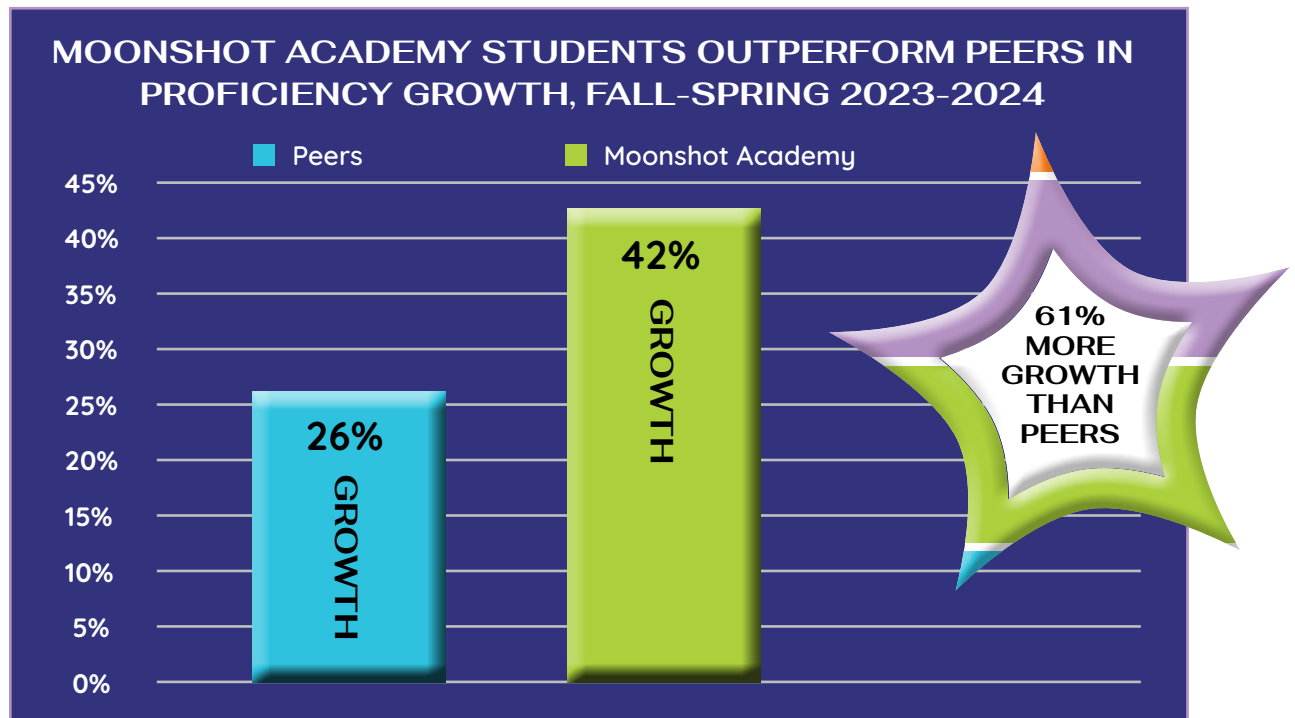
IMPACT 2023 -2024

CURRENT YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- School District of Indian River County receives an **“A” Grade 2 years in a row**
- School District of Indian River County is among the **top 10** school districts in Florida
- The Moonshot School at Vero Beach Elementary was the **most improved in our school district for 3rd grade reading achievement**
- The Moonshot School at Vero Beach Elementary is on the move, **achieving a “B” rating for the first time since 2013**

BY THE NUMBERS

- Served **4,500 K-3rd** grade students with programming to improve reading outcomes
- Supported **380 pre-K** students and **50 early childhood educators** with a Prevention Intervention Coach during the academic school year
- Provided **550 families** with language-rich activities to build early literacy skills
- Supported **350 K-3 educators** with training and coaching in the Science of Reading
- Distributed **5,500 books** and **1,800 learning kits** to support early literacy development



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

The research is clear - when ongoing coaching accompanies professional learning, the positive impact on classroom instruction is 3.6 times greater than from training alone. Source: Joyce, B. and Showers, B.

Following the research, The Learning Alliance supports a robust professional learning to practice model that builds teachers' knowledge in the Science of Reading, while coaching them on classroom implementation to improve daily instruction and student outcomes.

BUILDING TEACHING EXCELLENCE

- **Literacy Coaches** on every campus provide personalized support to over 350 K-2 educators, tailoring coaching to meet specific classroom needs.
- **Prevention Intervention Coaches** support 50 pre-K teachers to ensure our youngest learners meet developmental milestones for kindergarten readiness.
- **District-Wide Instructional Specialists** provide professional learning to 13 schools and 350 educators with year-round training, keeping them up-to-date on best practices to support their students' literacy needs.

“Third grade is the point of transformation for student success. Children learn to read by the end of third grade, so they can read to learn thereafter. If they can't read at the end of third grade, they only have a 1 in 4 chance of catching up.”
Ray Oglethorpe,
Chairman of the Board



EXTENDED LEARNING FOR STUDENTS

The Learning Alliance is committed to helping ALL students by providing high-quality literacy instruction outside of the traditional school day. Summer, afterschool, and in-school tutoring give struggling readers the extra time necessary to close learning gaps and be successful.

EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAMS

- **Moonshot Academy:** This after-school and summer program, active in 9 elementary schools, provides enriched literacy experiences to over 500 students, addressing individual needs through direct-explicit reading instruction.
- **K-3 Interventionists:** We employ dedicated interventionists who provide daily small-group instruction to over 600 students in 13 elementary schools across Indian River County, effectively addressing individual learning gaps.
- **Literacy on the Lagoon:** In partnership with the Environmental Learning Center, this hands-on summer program immerses second graders in the natural world, enhancing their literacy skills through outdoor activities that foster a love for nature.
- **Tune into Reading:** Offered in 5 elementary schools in the SDIRC, this innovative music-based reading program makes learning joyful, helping students improve vocabulary, comprehension, and oral reading fluency through singing.



“In Indian River County, 36% of third-graders are not reading on grade level. By providing extended learning opportunities for struggling readers, K-3, we are able to close critical literacy gaps and catch them up to their peers.”
Jessica Huber,
Extended Learning Manager

ENGAGED COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP

For over a decade, The Learning Alliance has been Indian River County's backbone organization, uniting our community around the Moonshot Goal. Literacy is everyone's business, and schools can't do it alone. In Indian River County, government officials and community leaders actively support this mission through various initiatives.

- **Moonshot Community Action Network (MCAN):** This program promotes long-term sustainability and transformative change by bringing together over 70 organizations and 150 individuals from diverse sectors. MCAN provides leadership training, builds collaborative relationships, and meets monthly to strengthen interagency partnerships and mobilize community efforts.
- **Community Awareness and Action Campaigns:** This year's Moonshot Literacy Olympics highlights our county as a national literacy capital by encouraging participants to unite and log their reading hours, fostering excitement for literacy in the community.
- **Moonshot Reading Captains:** With over 50 Moonshot Reading Captains, we are empowering trusted community members in each neighborhood to promote literacy and support to the families of our youngest learners.



“According to a meta-analysis on school district leadership, the length of superintendent tenure positively correlates to student achievement. Indian River County citizens understand this and have rallied behind our superintendent.”
Barbara Hammond,
CEO and Co-Founder

EMPOWERED FAMILIES

Literacy begins at birth, and we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive from the very beginning. Our mission is to equip families with the tools and resources they need to further their child's literacy and learning journey. With innovative programs and community engagement, we strive to create a foundation for lifelong success.

EMPOWERED FAMILIES PROGRAMS

- **Moonshot Families' Connection Specialists** empower families in underserved communities to be their child's first and most important teacher. Our Early Literacy Programming provides learning kits, books, and literacy-based activities that help children be kindergarten ready.
- **The Moonshot Reading Rocket** travels throughout the community, distributing free books and actively engaging with children and families to inspire a love of reading. Our beloved puppet, Moonshot, makes his way into the hearts of the children he meets and always encourages them to reach for the stars.
- **The Lullaby Program**, in partnership with Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute, encourages parents to begin their child's reading journey before birth. The creation of personalized lullabies, language-rich rituals, and routines for babies and their parents, strengthen connections and build early language skills.



"Today, only 51% of children arrive ready for kindergarten in Indian River County, making it difficult to catch up by the end of third grade. Through our early literacy programs, TLA gives caregivers strategies to help their children be kindergarten ready." Liz Remington, Chief Academic Officer and Co-Founder

THE MOONSHOT SCHOOL: *A Hub of Innovation*

Established in 2023, the Moonshot School at Vero Beach Elementary aims to improve student outcomes through the implementation of best practices delivered by educators who are experts in teaching the Science of Reading.

In just one year, the Moonshot School, one of the highest-needs schools in the county, was named the most improved in our school district for 3rd grade reading achievement.

OUR INNOVATIONS

- **Literacy coaches** in each grade level to build a teacher talent bench.
- Integrating **arts and literacy** to help students access a rich and robust curriculum.
- **Extended learning interventions** for struggling learners in school, after school, and during summer.
- **Performance-based incentives** for educators through micro-credentials and badging.
- A week-long **Summer Educator Institute** on the Science of Reading.
- **Extended Collaborative Planning** to ensure engaging, standards-based instruction across all classrooms.
- **Demonstration Classrooms** model best practice teaching and provide exemplary instruction from which other educators can learn.



MOONSHOT LEGACY SOCIETY

Established in 2023, the Legacy Society celebrates those who help secure the future success of The Learning Alliance (TLA). By naming TLA in your estate plans, you create a lasting impact on our mission to transform the lives of our children. Your generosity not only provides immediate support but also lays a foundation for future growth and success.

To learn more about becoming a member of the Moonshot Legacy Society, please contact:

Texa Gaya

Director of Development

(772) 643-4390

tgaya@thelearningalliance.org

“The Moonshot Legacy Society plays a pivotal role in creating a lasting impact on literacy in our community.”

**Fritz Spitzmiller,
TLA Board Member**



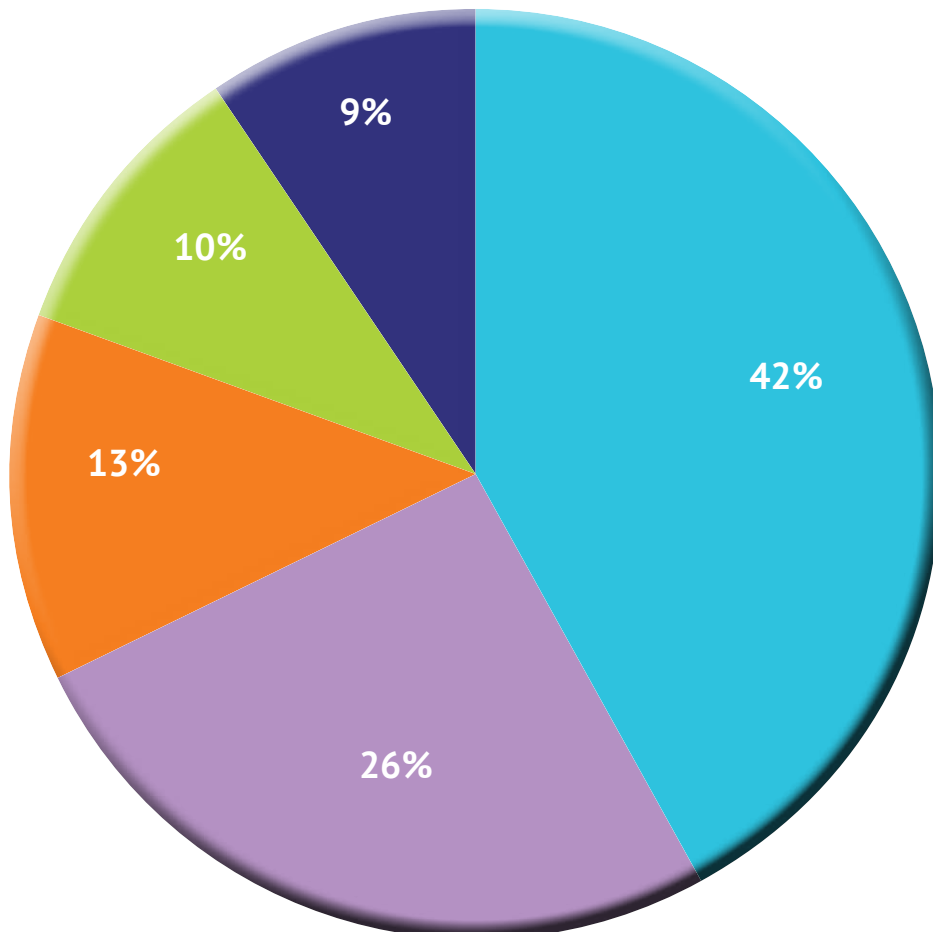
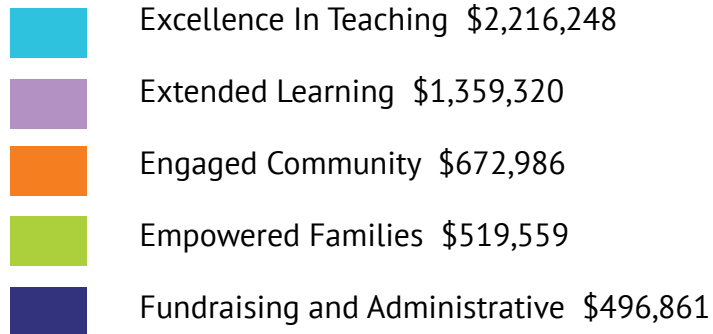
First grade students at the Moonshot School studied the War of 1812. They learned the origin of our National Anthem and created this 4' by 10' American Flag containing the students' self-portraits.

FINANCIALS

2023-2024 ACTUAL * FINANCIALS \$5,264,974

*Audited financials will be available November 2024

The totals for each program reflect program costs plus salary allocations for each program.



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Our warmest thanks to our investors who have shown extraordinary support to The Learning Alliance during the 2024 fiscal year.



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Annual giving circles for 2023-2024 reflect the sum of gifts received from any given donor during The Learning Alliance's fiscal year of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Together, we can drive meaningful change and make a lasting difference in the lives of children. We invite you to get involved and help us achieve our mission and vision for a brighter, more literate future!

Make a gift: Your contribution has the power to profoundly impact a child's future, unlocking doors to endless opportunities and fostering a love of reading that can last a lifetime. Every gift plays a role in helping us reach our goal of 90% reading proficiency by the end of third grade. Thank you for making a difference in our mission to transform education and change lives. Please visit TheLearningAlliance.org/donate to make a gift.

Volunteer: Get involved and make a difference. Your time and dedication are invaluable and play a crucial role in supporting our students and enhancing our programs. Read to children and inspire a love for books, get trained in literacy skills to offer one-on-one support, or join us in assembling kits with books and educational materials for children and their families. Volunteering enriches the lives of those you help and strengthens our community as a whole.

Contact Pat Shaw to learn more about our volunteer opportunities:
pshaw@thelearningalliance.org

Share our message: Share The Learning Alliance's commitment to improving childhood literacy with friends and community members. By encouraging others to embrace and support the power of reading and education, we create a more informed and connected community. Together, let's build a stronger, more empowered society where knowledge is shared and growth is prioritized!





The Learning Alliance
P.O. Box 2647 • Vero Beach, FL 32961

p: 877-548-READ (7323)

TheLearningAlliance.org

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