



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



I am excited to report that the Indian River County School District improved its state ranking from 12th in the state to 7th for third-grade reading scores during the 2022-2023 school year, according to initial state testing data. We were 31st prior to the pandemic, but through our county-wide Moonshot commitment to early literacy, we have moved the needle dramatically. Furthermore, while the state declined in reading scores from 53% to 50%, we were able to increase the percentage of third graders reading on grade level from 58% in 2022 to 60% in 2023, despite the devastating effects of the pandemic and poverty rates significantly higher than the state average.

You may ask what it will take to continue this trajectory and achieve our literacy goal of 90% of students reading on grade level by the end of third grade. It will take the continued hard work and dedication of all stakeholders because we know that schools can't do it alone. While there is no magic solution, our children's success emerges from our laser light focus on the ABCs.

A is for Acceleration. We must continue to accelerate learning through piloting and scaling best-practice solutions. The Learning Alliance has done this from the beginning, now reaching over 350 educators and 4,500 students through our innovative programming. We support teachers to deliver effective instruction anchored in the Science of Reading, and provide students well-structured, extra time to catch up to their peers. Last year, we supported the deployment of an Acceleration Team of literacy experts to work in a high-needs elementary school and create a hub of innovation and best practices. This year, we are thrilled to launch this as our Moonshot School, a site that will serve as a training ground for educators and accelerate learnings grounded in the Science of Reading that will be propagated throughout the district.

B is for Bold. Continue to set a high bar and stay committed to our bold goal of 90% literacy by third grade because literacy is the gateway to all learning. You learn to read until third grade so you can read to learn thereafter. Unfortunately, only 33% of third graders nationwide are reading on grade level, and only 1 in 4 of those students will ever catch up without help. This bold goal, our North Star, is allowing us to build a literacy culture in our schools and community and reimagine education.

C is for Collaboration. We have forged an unprecedented, collaborative public/private partnership with the school district and community to solve the literacy crisis. Working alongside our transformational superintendent, we can apply research to practice in our schools to ensure every student has access to effective, best-practice reading instruction. The community has galvanized around our Moonshot goal such that every citizen, parent, and community leader understands the importance of early literacy and that literacy begins at birth.

We thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our children. Your help has a significant impact on the lives of students each day. Without you, our work would not be possible.

Sincerely,
Ray Oglethorpe

EARLY LITERACY MODEL



Our name and logo say it all. We are The Learning Alliance. We ally people around the Moonshot goal of 90% literacy by the end of third grade. Together, with family, school and community partners, we are building a stronger educational pipeline birth through third grade, making Indian River County a recognized literacy capital.

OUR VISION:

For our children to become literate, compassionate, creative citizens who will improve our world.

OUR 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.



Excellence in Teaching

Extended Learning for Students

Engaged Community and Leadership

Empowered Families



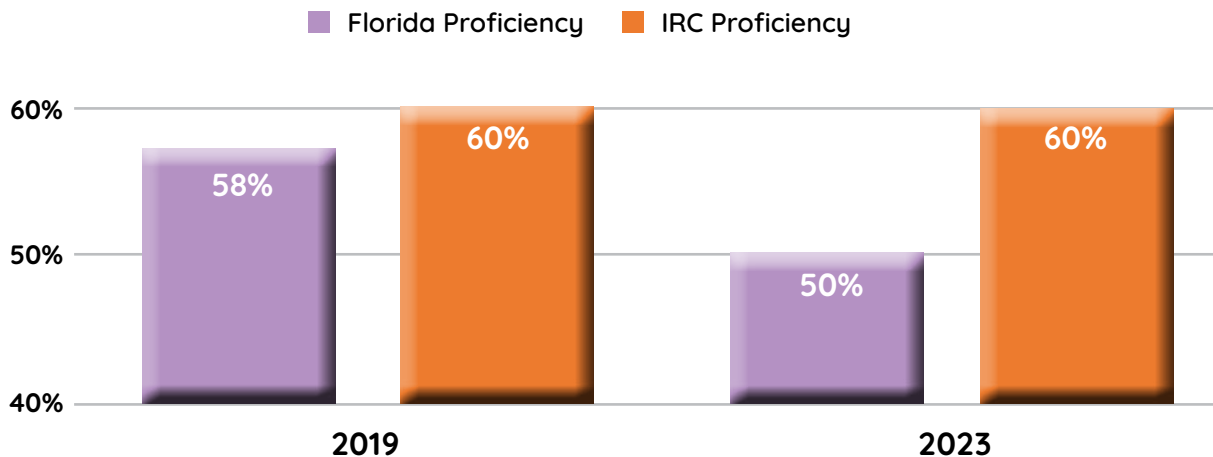
CURRENT YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Indian River County School District achieves **Top 10 Strategic Goal in 3rd grade reading** scores after climbing from 31st (2019) to 12th (2022) and is now ranked 7th out of 67 districts.*
- **Launched The Moonshot School** at Vero Beach Elementary, a high needs school, to be a hub of innovation, demonstrating best-practice literacy instruction and propagating learning throughout the district
- Indian River County has been **recognized 11 years** in a row as a National Pacesetter by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for our work to improve early literacy

BY THE NUMBERS

- **Supported 4,500 K-3rd grade students** with programming to improve reading outcomes
- **Distributed more than 5,500** books and **1,700** learning kits
- **Provided more than 400 families** with language-rich activities to build early literacy skills
- **Supported 350 educators** with training and coaching in the Science of Reading

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY (IRC) HOLDS STEADY AT 60% READING PROFICIENCY WHILE STATE OF FLORIDA DECLINES



*These numbers are based on preliminary data. Indian River County remained at 60% proficiency for 3rd grade reading, while the state dropped to 50% from Pre-COVID levels, despite the fact that 64% of third grade students are economically disadvantaged as opposed to the state average of 56%. (Source: FLDOE)

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING



National studies have shown that teacher quality is seen as the most important variable affecting student achievement, even more so than demographic factors. In fact, effective teaching can generate impact at four times the rate of ineffective teaching. Understanding this, The Learning Alliance celebrates educators and provides them with resources to ensure that the Science of Reading is taught effectively in every K-3 classroom.

Excellence in Teaching Programs:

- **Literacy Coaches** provide embedded coaching to over 350 K-2 educators on every campus
- **Professional Development** during the school year and summer ensures K-3 educators and leaders have the knowledge and skills to support effective reading instruction
- **Literacy Badges and Micro-Credentials** ensure educators have the knowledge and skills to teach the Science of Reading effectively

EXTENDED LEARNING FOR STUDENTS



The Learning Alliance's programs deliver targeted intervention and academic enrichment during school, after school and in the summer. We are providing students in kindergarten through third grade with additional, well-structured time to close literacy gaps and catch up to their peers. In doing so, we are moving the needle on third grade literacy outcomes.

Extended Learning Programs:

- **Moonshot Academy** offers literacy-based, immersive learning experiences after school and during the summer to more than 400 kids on 8 campuses
- **K-3 Interventionists** provide over 550 struggling students small-group instruction every day at SDIRC's 13 elementary schools
- **Literacy on the Lagoon** provides hands-on, experiential learning in partnership with the Environmental Learning Center during the summer for rising second graders
- **Tune into Reading** improves reading fluency and comprehension on select campuses for 135 second and third grade struggling readers using a tablet-based program



Achieving the Moonshot Moment goal requires that the community understands the importance of early literacy and collectively holds the goal. Indian River County government officials and community leaders have declared early literacy a top priority through their ongoing participation in our community programs.

Engaged Community Programs:

- **Moonshot Community Action Network**, a community leadership program with over 125 members committed to working together to achieve the Moonshot goal
- **Community awareness and action campaigns** ensure the community holds the Moonshot literacy goal and annually onboard newly elected officials and civic leaders as Moonshot Moment leaders
- **Moonshot Reading Rocket** delivers engaging literacy experiences to families throughout Indian River County

EMPOWERED FAMILIES



Moonshot Families empower caregivers to be their child's first, and most important teacher to help ensure all children arrive to kindergarten ready to learn. Moonshot Families *Read, Talk, Play, Sing, and Create* together to build early literacy skills.

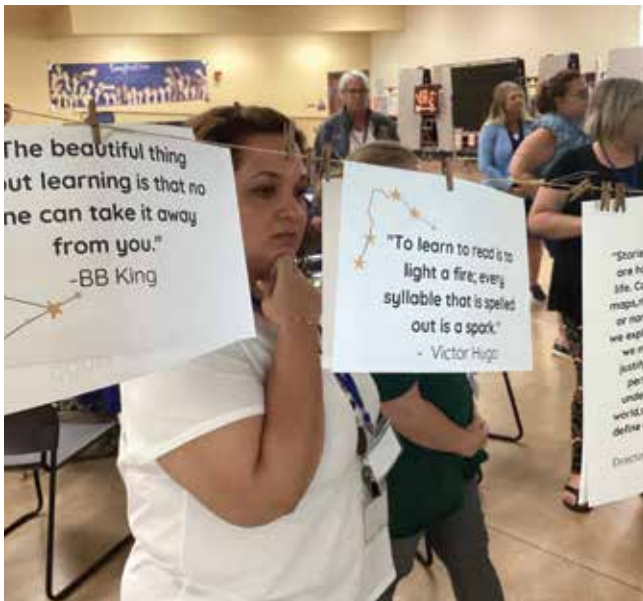
Empowered Families Programs:

- **Moonshot Families' Connection Specialists** build trusted relationships with families in our underserved communities to ensure their children are ready for kindergarten
- **Free Books, Learning Kits, and Videos** are provided so every home has the resources needed to build early literacy skills
- **Moonshot Reading Captains** raise awareness in their neighborhoods of the importance of early literacy

THE MOONSHOT SCHOOL

Introducing The Moonshot School at Vero Beach Elementary

At the start of the 2023/24 school year, The Learning Alliance opened The Moonshot School at Vero Beach Elementary.



THE MOONSHOT SCHOOL

In 1968 John F. Kennedy inspired our Nation, establishing the Moonshot goal: to land a man on the Moon and safely return by the end of the decade.

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard." This Moonshot Goal is a challenge that "... we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win."

-President John F. Kennedy



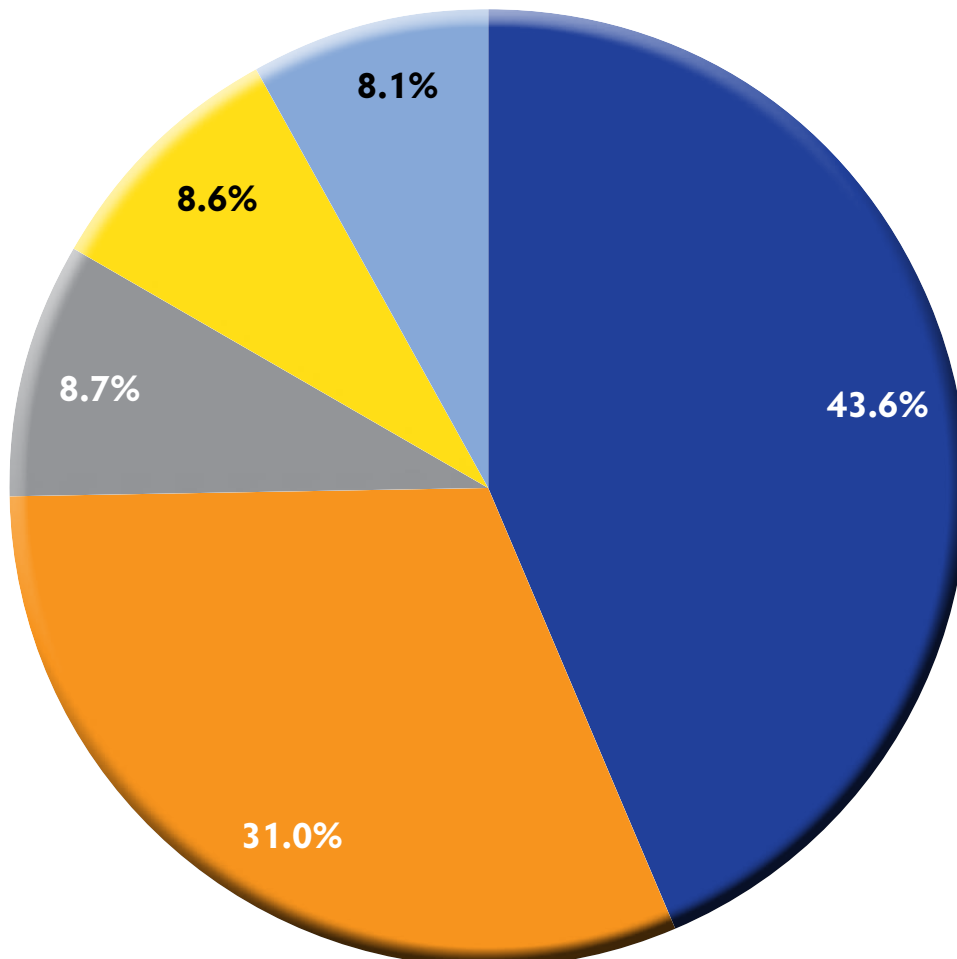
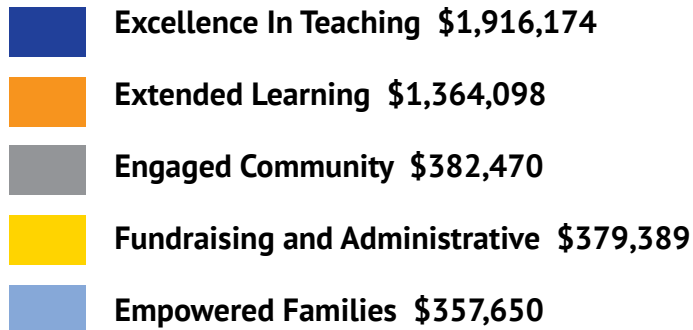
The Moonshot School launched this fall at Vero Beach Elementary (VBE), one of our highest-needs schools. While VBE students are some of the most economically challenged students in our community, we know that if we can achieve 90% literacy there, we can achieve it anywhere. Together, with the School District of Indian River County, and your support, we are creating a demonstration school for best practices. This school is a hub for innovation, inviting educators from across our community and state to learn what it takes to ensure all children can read proficiently by the third grade and achieve the American Dream.

FINANCIALS

***2022-2023 ACTUAL FINANCIALS \$4,399,782**

*Audited financials will be available November 2023

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



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Founders - \$150,000 within 3 years

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