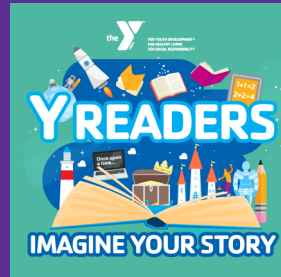


Y READERS

AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER

2025 PROGRAM OUTLINE



the **Y**
YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

OVERVIEW

The mission of Y Readers is to provide additional support for students to be proficient in reading by the end of 3rd grade. Y Readers operates as an afterschool tutoring and summer program for K-3 students who are reading below grade level. Certified teachers and instructional assistants provide literacy instruction based on students' needs, and students also participate in a variety of enrichment activities, including physical activity, art, and field trips.

FIDELITY MARKERS

While not an exhaustive list, the following fidelity markers are central to the program and contribute to the program's impact:

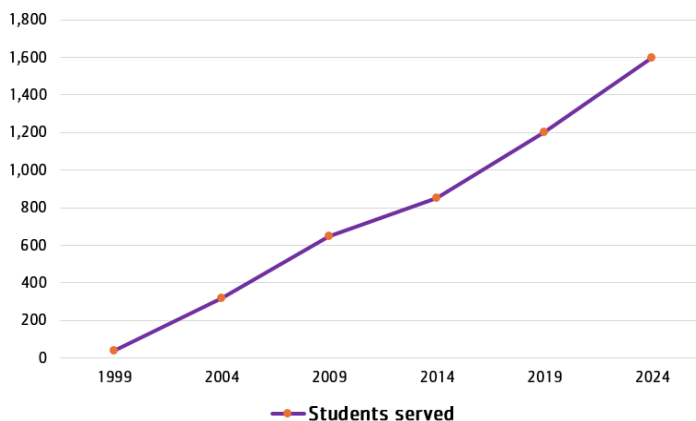
Grades K-3	Literacy focused
Offer literacy & enrichment components	Operate in school buildings
Certified teachers plan and lead instruction	Free to families

ORIGIN & HISTORY

In summer 1999, the YMCA of Greater Charlotte collaborated with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) to launch a six-week literacy and enrichment program. The program was developed to prevent summer learning loss and served 40 students at Reid Park Academy.

Over the next 5 years, the Y expanded the summer program to additional schools and added afterschool tutoring at select schools during the 2004-2005 school year. The Y opened a Y Readers site in Mooresville Graded School District (MGSD) in 2004 and a site in Lincoln County Schools in 2012.

The Y also temporarily operated a virtual tutoring model to serve students during summer 2020 and 2021 when many families were unable to attend programming in-person. We resumed our traditional in-person model at all sites beginning in 2022.



PARTNER DISTRICTS

- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Mooresville Graded School District

CMS SCHOOLS

- Albemarle Road Elementary
- Berryhill School
- Cornelius Elementary
 - + Huntersville Elementary
 - + J.V. Washam Elementary
- Croft Community School
- Governors' Village STEM Academy
- Huntingtowne Farms Elementary
- J.H. Gunn Elementary
 - + Esperanza Global Academy
- Lake Wylie Elementary
 - + South Pine Academy
- Nations Ford Elementary
- Reid Park Academy
- Renaissance West STEAM Academy
- Starmount Academy of Excellence
- Statesville Road Elementary

MGSD SCHOOLS

- Park View Elementary
 - + Rocky River Elementary
 - + South Elementary School

CONTACTS

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Financial Giving

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SCHOOL SELECTION

Currently, Y Readers is offered within CMS and MGSD districts. Our intent is to maintain long-term partnerships at select schools within these districts. When considering new schools to partner with, we collaborate with district leaders to identify those with the greatest need and meet the following criteria:

- Title I school (at least 35.65% of students meet Community Eligibility Provision guidelines, which is the district's measure of poverty)
- Not already partnered with another out-of-school time agency that offers similar programming
- Principal support and engagement
- Staff availability (teachers and instructional assistants)

STUDENT SELECTION

Y Readers serves students in grades K-3 who are reading below grade level and would benefit from additional literacy support during out-of-school time hours. Students must attend the selected partner school and be recommended for the program by their principal or classroom teacher. We prioritize serving former participants if they continue to meet student selection criteria.

STAFFING

Our staffing structure consists of full and part-time staff. Full-time staff include a director, a literacy coordinator, and two academic coordinators. Part-time staff include site administrators, teachers, and instructional assistants. Site administrators support site operations, while teachers and instructional assistants implement curriculum with students in small groups. Our structure is built around hiring certified teachers who have experience in elementary literacy and who are highly recommended by their school principal.

COMPONENTS

LITERACY INSTRUCTION

Y Readers provides curriculum based literacy instruction focused on the foundational skills that students need to read proficiently. Instruction includes phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. Students participate in 1.5 hours of daily literacy instruction during afterschool tutoring and 2.5 hours during the summer program. With a teacher to student ratio of 1:8, instructional staff are able to provide small group, differentiated instruction. We utilize Orton-Gillingham to teach foundational phonics skills. Vocabulary and comprehension are taught through interactive reading lessons.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM AREAS

In addition to literacy, students participate in a variety of enrichment activities during the summer program. Activities include social-emotional learning, physical activity, art, games, and off-campus experiences. Field trips during the summer provide opportunities for students to explore parts of the city outside of their neighborhoods.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Our staff provide families with information about each student's progress, as well as recommendations and resources to support learning at home.

SUPPORT SERVICES

In partnership with our partner school districts, the Y provides bus transportation, as well as meals and snacks. Students and their families who may be in need are also supported through food share opportunities and assistance with essential items such as meals, clothing, shoes, backpacks, and school supplies.

SUMMER LEARNING

A lack of academic and enrichment opportunities during summer means that many children experience learning loss in reading. Summer learning loss is particularly detrimental for students who are already behind academically. The compounded effect of "summer slide" over multiple summers makes it harder for children to catch up and exacerbates disparities between subgroups of students.

3rd GRADE READING

The end of 3rd grade marks the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. 3rd grade is a benchmark year in a child's education and is the best predictor of a child's success in school. 96% of students who are reading proficiently in 3rd grade graduate high school on time. In contrast, students who are not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are 4Xs more likely to drop out of high school.

Data results provided by our school district partners, indicated that 53% of 3rd graders were not proficient in reading at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Notable disparities remain between schools and subgroups of students, particularly African American and Hispanic subgroups.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Arrival & Breakfast

8:00-8:30

Literacy Instruction

8:30-11:30

Lunch

11:30-12:00

Enrichment Program Areas

12:00-3:00

Snack & Dismissal

3:00-3:30

VOLUNTEERS

The YMCA recruits and trains community members to serve as reading buddies during summer. Volunteers commit to read with students for one hour each week and receive training on Active Reading strategies: Ask Questions, Build Vocabulary, Connect to Their World.

Volunteers must pass screenings required by the YMCA and school district partners, including background checks and Child Abuse Prevention training. Volunteer opportunities can be found online at ymcacharlotte.org/volunteer.

EVALUATION

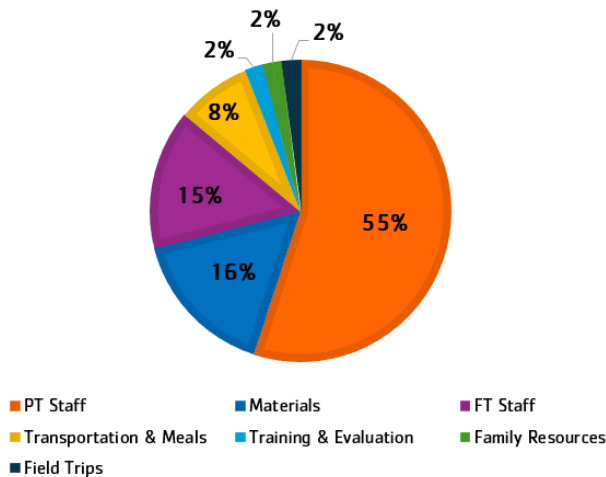
To determine program impact, Y Readers participants are pre- and post tested utilizing Renaissance Learning's Star Early Literacy assessment. This tool allows us to measure overall reading growth as well as growth in specific skill areas, including phonics, phonological awareness, and vocabulary. Evaluation includes an analysis of student data for each program session. Outcomes are then reported to show percentages of students who improved or maintained their literacy classification level.

In addition to reading analysis, the Y also tracks home reading to measure family engagement. Feedback is collected from families and staff at the end of each program session to inform program improvement and innovation.

COSTS & FUNDING

The Y Readers budget is developed annually based on projected service numbers for the calendar year. The projected cost to operate Y Readers in 2025 is \$2,546,250 inclusive of \$1,760,150 for summer and \$786,100 for afterschool. With some variance based on the number of students served at each location, the Y invests approximately \$125,725 per school for summer (14 schools) and \$71,465 per school for afterschool (10 schools). The approximate cost per student in 2025 is **\$1,676 for summer** (1,050 students) and **\$1,845 for afterschool** (420 students). Part-time staff account for over half of program expenses due to our commitment to employ certified teachers and instructional assistants.

Y READERS EXPENSES



The YMCA is able to offer Y Readers programming at no cost to families thanks to the generosity of individuals who contribute to the YMCA Annual Campaign. The program also receives funding from local and national corporations and foundations. To learn more about funding sources and explore opportunities to support Y Readers, please visit www.ymcacharlotte.org/give.

IMPACT REPORT

Our annual impact report with program outcomes can be found online at: ymcacharlotte.org/yreaders.

PARTNERSHIPS

Local School Districts

CMS and MGSD provide facilities in-kind. Districts also provide child nutrition and transportation as contracted services.

Promising Pages

The Y works with Promising Pages to get new and gently used books into students' homes. Each Y Readers participant receives a minimum of 5 books each program session to build their home libraries.

Read Charlotte

Read Charlotte serves as a key thought partner as we innovate the program and evaluation methods to increase impact.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

YMCA of the USA (Y-USA) adopted Y Readers as the National Signature Program for Summer Learning Loss Prevention (2012). The program has since expanded to YMCA's across the country in which the YMCA of Greater Charlotte serves as the model program.

2025 STAFFING

Afterschool

- 10 Site Administrators
- 30 Teachers
- 50 Instructional Assistants

Summer

- 14 Site Administrators
- 10 Site Leaders
- 85 Teachers