



Y READERS

WHITE PAGES 2024

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The mission of Y Readers is to provide the additional support that students need to be proficient in reading by the end of 3rd grade. The program operates as an afterschool and summer model, providing tutoring during out-of-school time hours to students in grades K-3 who are reading below grade level. Certified teachers and instructional assistants provide literacy instruction based on students' needs, and students also have the opportunity to 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
Offer both literacy & enrichment components
Certified teachers plan and lead instruction

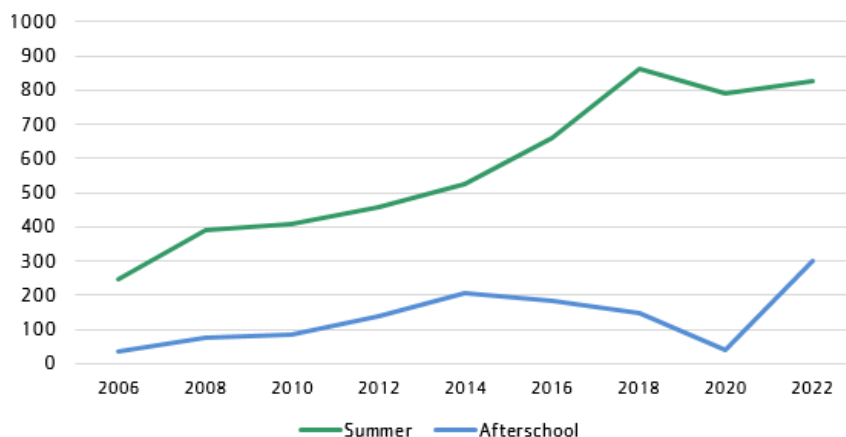
Focus on literacy
Host in school facilities
Free to families

ORIGIN & HISTORY

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

The Y expanded the summer program to additional schools over the next five years and added an afterschool model at select schools during the 2004-2005 school year. The Y opened a Y Readers site in Mooresville Graded School District 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 (CMS)
Mooresville Graded School District (MGSD)

CMS SCHOOLS

Albemarle Road Elementary
Berryhill School
Cornelius Elementary
+ Huntersville Elementary
+ J.V. Washam Elementary
Croft Community School
David Cox Road Elementary
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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SCHOOL SELECTION

Although Y Readers is only currently offered within CMS and MGSD districts, the need for literacy programming in surrounding school districts is reviewed on an annual basis. Because consistency and relationships are important to families and students, it is our intent to maintain long-term partnerships with schools. When considering new host schools, we collaborate with district leaders to identify schools with the greatest need and use 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 program that offers similar services
- Principal support and engagement

STUDENT SELECTION

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

STAFFING MODEL

Given our focus on literacy instruction, educators are central to our staffing model. We have a team of full-time staff who support the program, including a director, literacy specialist, and operations directors. We prioritize hiring part-time staff from our partner schools to facilitate the program based on principal recommendation. We hire site leaders who oversee management of the sites, certified teachers and instructional assistants to implement instruction with small groups of students.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

LITERACY INSTRUCTION

Y Readers provides literacy instruction focused on the foundational skills that students need to read proficiently, including phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students participate in a daily minimum of 2.5 hours of literacy instruction during the summer program and 75 minutes during the afterschool program. With a maximum 1:8 ratio, our teachers and instructional assistants are able to provide small group, differentiated instruction. We utilize Orton-Gillingham to teach foundational phonics skills, and we teach vocabulary and comprehension through interactive reading lessons.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to literacy instruction, students also participate in a variety of enrichment activities during the summer program. Core activities include social-emotional learning, physical activity, art, games, and off-site experiences. Weekly field trips during the summer provide opportunities for students to swim at Y branches and explore parts of the city outside of their own neighborhoods.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Y believes that parents and caregivers are a child's first and most important teacher. 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 CMS, the Y provides bus transportation, as well as meals and snacks.

SUMMER LEARNING

A lack of academic and enrichment opportunities during summer means that many children experience learning loss in reading and math. Summer learning loss is particularly detrimental for students who are already behind in academic skills. The compounded effect of "summer slide" over multiple summers makes it harder for children to ever 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 four times more likely to drop out of high school.

CMS district's end of year (2022-2023) reading results demonstrated the continued need for literacy support. The number of CMS 3rd graders scoring proficient in reading was 46%. That's up 3 percent from the previous year, but still below pre-pandemic rates and shows that 54% of 3rd graders are not proficient in reading.

SAMPLE SUMMER SCHEDULE

8:00-8:30
Breakfast
8:30-10:30
Small Group Lessons
10:30-11:00
Writing
11:00-11:30
High Frequency Word Activities
11:30-12:00
Lunch
12:00-3:00
Enrichment Activities
3:00-3:30
Snack & Dismissal

VOLUNTEERS

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

All volunteers must pass screening steps required by the YMCA and CMS, including background checks and Child Abuse Prevention training. Volunteer opportunities can be found online at ymcacharlotte.org/volunteer.

EVALUATION

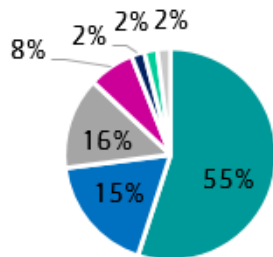
Y Readers participants are pre- and post-tested to measure reading growth. During the summer, we measure whether students improve or maintain their reading skills, and during the school year, we measure whether students meet or exceed expected growth in reading skills. We utilize Renaissance Learning's STAR Early Literacy assessment. This tool allows us to measure growth in several foundational reading skills, including phonics, vocabulary, and high frequency words.

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

PROGRAM 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 2024 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 (11 schools). The approximate cost per student in 2024 is **\$1,676 for summer** (1,050 students) and **\$1,845 for afterschool** (426 students). As shown in the chart below, part-time staff account for over half of program expenses due to our continued commitment to employ certified teachers and instructional assistants.

Y Readers Expenses



- Part-Time Staff
- Full-Time Staff
- Materials
- Food & Transportation
- Field Trips & Swim
- Family Resources
- Training & Evaluation

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

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

CMS provides facilities in-kind. The district also provides 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

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

2024 STAFFING

Afterschool

11 Site Leaders
37 Teachers
52 Instructional Assistants

Summer

14 Site Leaders
10 Assistant Site Leaders
85 Teachers
94 Instructional Assistants