



# Reaching Every Reader

## THE CALL TO COLLECTIVE ACTION

May 2, 2022

Teaching children how to read is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of our public schools. Reading—the ability to gain meaning from print—is the gateway to future learning, both in and out of the classroom; it is essential for full participation in civic life, democratic society, and the 21st century economy.

Every student in New York City deserves the chance to learn to read, no matter the school they attend or the neighborhood they call home. And science tells us that nearly all children can become skilled readers when they receive high-quality, evidence-based instruction. We know that children learn literacy skills best when they are explicitly and systematically taught how to break the code that connects sounds and letters; when the curriculum reflects their lived experiences and affirms their cultural and linguistic identities; when language and literacy development are both understood as dynamic processes; and when their teachers have the training and support they need to be effective. Research lights the path forward, and success requires a long-term, citywide commitment to making evidence-based and culturally and linguistically relevant reading instruction a top priority.

How reading is currently taught around the city differs, to some degree, by school, neighborhood, and district. The goal is for there to be a consistent use of scientifically based and culturally and linguistically relevant curricula. If we are committed to supporting all students, including our marginalized students, then students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities will be ensured proper instruction and intervention, and students who learn in two languages will benefit from literacy instruction that uses and values their home language.

Now is the time for all New Yorkers—educators and school staff; parents and students; policymakers and philanthropists; community-based organizations, advocates, and faith leaders—to come together around a shared vision for universal literacy. Together, we will fight to ensure that every child, in every classroom, in every language, has the support they need to become a successful and lifelong reader.

## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Advocates for Children of New York  
AHRC New York City  
AIM Institute for Learning & Research  
Alliance for Quality Education  
The ARISE Coalition  
Astor Services for Children & Families  
Axis Learning Group, LLC  
Beam Center  
Birch Family Services  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
Child Mind Institute  
Child Study Center of New York  
Children's Defense Fund NY  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York  
Citywide Council on Special Education  
Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)  
Cooke School and Institute  
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA)  
Dyslexia Advocacy Action Group  
Dyslexia Alliance for Black Children  
Easterseals NY – Story Avenue  
El Puente  
Everyone Reading, Inc.  
exalt  
Expanded Schools  
Extreme Kids & Crew  
Fill in the GAP  
Goddard Riverside Community Center  
Goyen Foundation  
Henry Street Settlement  
Hunts Point Alliance for Children  
INCLUDEnyc  
The Innovative Daycare Corp  
Institute for Multi-Sensory Education  
Law Office of Norma Francullo, LLC  
Lawyers for Children, Inc.  
The Learning Advocates LLC  
Learning Ally  
LearnUp Centers  
Literacy Academy Collective  
Literacy Inc.  
Literacy Trust  
LSSNY  
MercyFirst  
Metropolitan Parent Center, Sinergia Inc.  
Metropolitan Russian American Parents Association  
Mobilization for Justice  
NAACP New York State Conference  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc.  
NYC Coalition For Educational Justice  
NYU Education Advocacy Clinic  
Parents for Inclusive Education  
Partnership for After School Education (PASE)  
Promise Project  
Protect NYC Special Education (Proteger la Educación Especial de NYC)  
READ 718  
Read Alliance  
Read to Lead  
The Reading Team  
The Right to Read Project  
Small Wonder Preschool, Inc.  
Special Support Services, LLC  
Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center  
Teach For America New York  
Teach My Kid to Read  
Teaching Matters  
United We Stand of New York  
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