



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019



Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe

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OUR MISSION

**Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe
seeks to inspire and teach children to read.**



Our vision is that all children in our community are skilled and engaged readers, and we believe that literacy is critical to their success and positive self-esteem. We value equity and diversity and strive to reduce the literacy achievement gap.

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share with you that Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe volunteers tutored 221 students in kindergarten through 3rd grade in the fiscal year 2018-19. We are deeply grateful for our volunteer reading tutors, donors, board members, city and county school partners, and staff and community partners whose collective impact made this possible. Our reading tutors helped students gain critical reading skills needed to achieve the significant milestone of grade-level reading by the end of third grade. On average, participating students gained 4.51 reading levels by year-end.

Read to Succeed is working diligently to build a sustainable, diverse, and forward-thinking organization that works collaboratively with schools and other community groups to close the literacy achievement gap in our local elementary schools.

To do this, we must recruit more community members to train as tutors, serve more students, create a greater diversity of new volunteer opportunities, and continue to build a sustainable organization.

Thank you for your commitment to Read to Succeed and for supporting local students in building the reading skills they need to achieve academic and life success.

Best regards,

Pat Bastian
President

Ann Flynn
Executive Director

READ TO SUCCEED SNAPSHOT



Total students served across 11 area public schools



Reading levels gained on average by participating students



Total volunteers, 159 of whom were reading tutors



Tutoring hours contributed to area public schools

Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe is an in-school volunteer literacy tutoring program serving children in kindergarten through 3rd grade.



***Third grade is the tipping point. Through third grade, children learn to read.
After third grade, children must read to learn.***

OUR HISTORY

Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe was created in 2009 through a collaboration of community activists led by Isaac Coleman and Dr. Catherine Alter. They were inspired by the belief that closing the achievement gap in our local schools would have long-term positive impacts on our community.

Almost ten years have passed since our 2011 incorporation as a nonprofit organization, and we continue to hold steadfast to our founders' convictions that the ability to read profoundly increases a child's opportunities for educational and life success. In our first year, we tutored six students. During the 2018-19 school year, we served 221 students, and we will serve approximately 240 students in the 2019-2020 school year.

Our mission is to "inspire and teach children to read." We achieve our mission by providing the highest quality in-school tutoring to students in kindergarten through third grade so they may achieve grade-level reading proficiency by the end of third grade. Our vision is that all children in our community are skillful and engaged readers. All students with whom we work in Asheville City and Buncombe County elementary schools have fewer additional educational and enrichment opportunities than their peers.

WHAT WE DO



R2S recruits, trains, places, and supervises volunteer reading tutors who work with K-3rd grade students in the city and county schools. We maintain a rigorous and high-fidelity volunteer training program wherein tutors take an initial 12 hours of core training, attend monthly in-service trainings, and have access to ongoing modules throughout the year to enhance their skill level in subjects such as handwriting, syllables, sight words/trick words, etc.

The R2S curriculum is based on the Orton-Gillingham approach and uses Wilson System strategies. This flexible, language-based modality of teaching engages multiple senses—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic—to enhance memory storage and retrieval of sounds, syllables, and words.

Once trained, tutors are assigned to a student and work in-school with them 1 to 2 hours per week. We periodically observe and evaluate each tutor to assure that teaching techniques remain true to the R2S curriculum and standards. We retain approximately 80% of our volunteers yearly, and our annual volunteer survey shows consistently and repeatedly that tutors value our high-quality training and support. Our volunteers have a deep sense of commitment to teaching children to read and turn our mission into measurable action.

OUTCOMES AND MEASUREMENTS

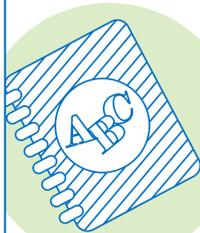
Our collaborative partners - Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools - provide us with state-administered test scores multiple times each year that measure reading growth.

These scores, along with our own internal testing, show that all our students improve their reading ability in the six areas of literacy - phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing. In addition, we survey teachers yearly to ask for suggestions for improvement and input in our process.

Teachers and principals repeatedly tell us that our students also show increased confidence in their ability to learn to read, enthusiasm for reading, and participation in the classroom.



Participating students gained 4.51 reading levels on average.



FIRST GRADE

Gained 5.6 reading levels on average.

SECOND GRADE

Gained 4.5 reading levels on average.

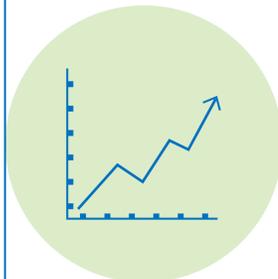


THIRD GRADE

Gained 4.4 reading levels on average.

56 STUDENTS (41%)

Ended the year at or within one level of grade-level proficiency.



71 STUDENTS (51.5%)

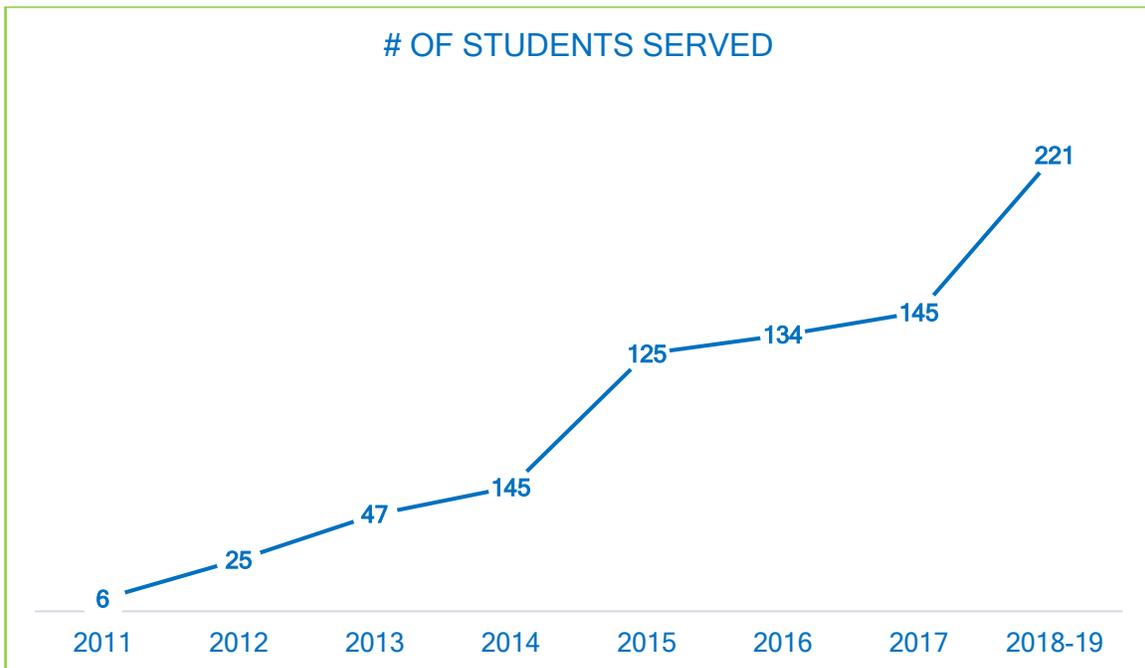
Increased 5-10 reading levels.

OUR INTERVENTION

The carefully constructed R2S curricula, as well as the ongoing support given to our volunteer tutors, has paid enormous dividends. Our intervention of one-to-one tutoring with a consistent, caring, well-trained adult has garnered support from the community and schools, and it has enabled us to continue recruiting excellent volunteers.

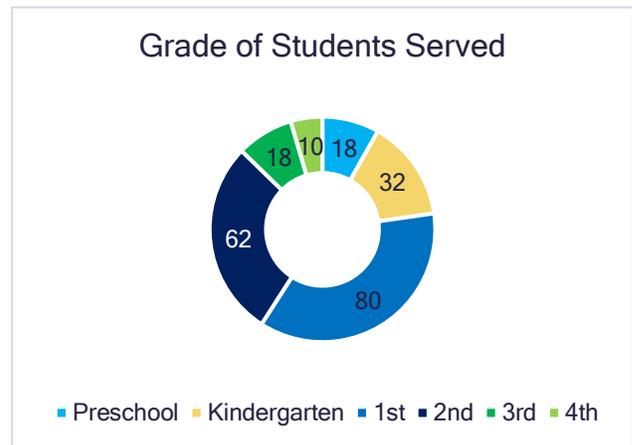
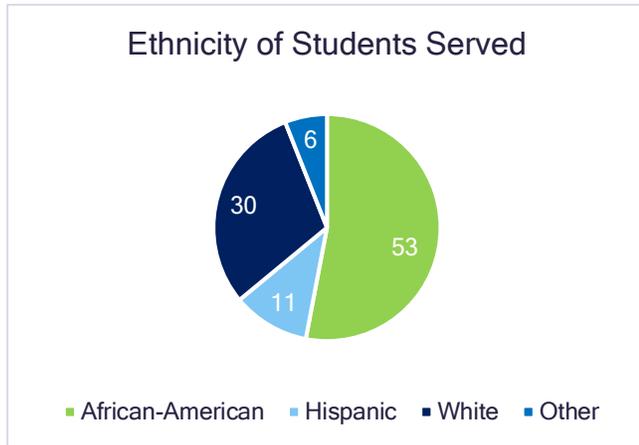
Our Students

Read to Succeed continues to serve more students each year. In the fiscal year 2018 – 2019, we served 221 students—a 76% increase over the previous year.



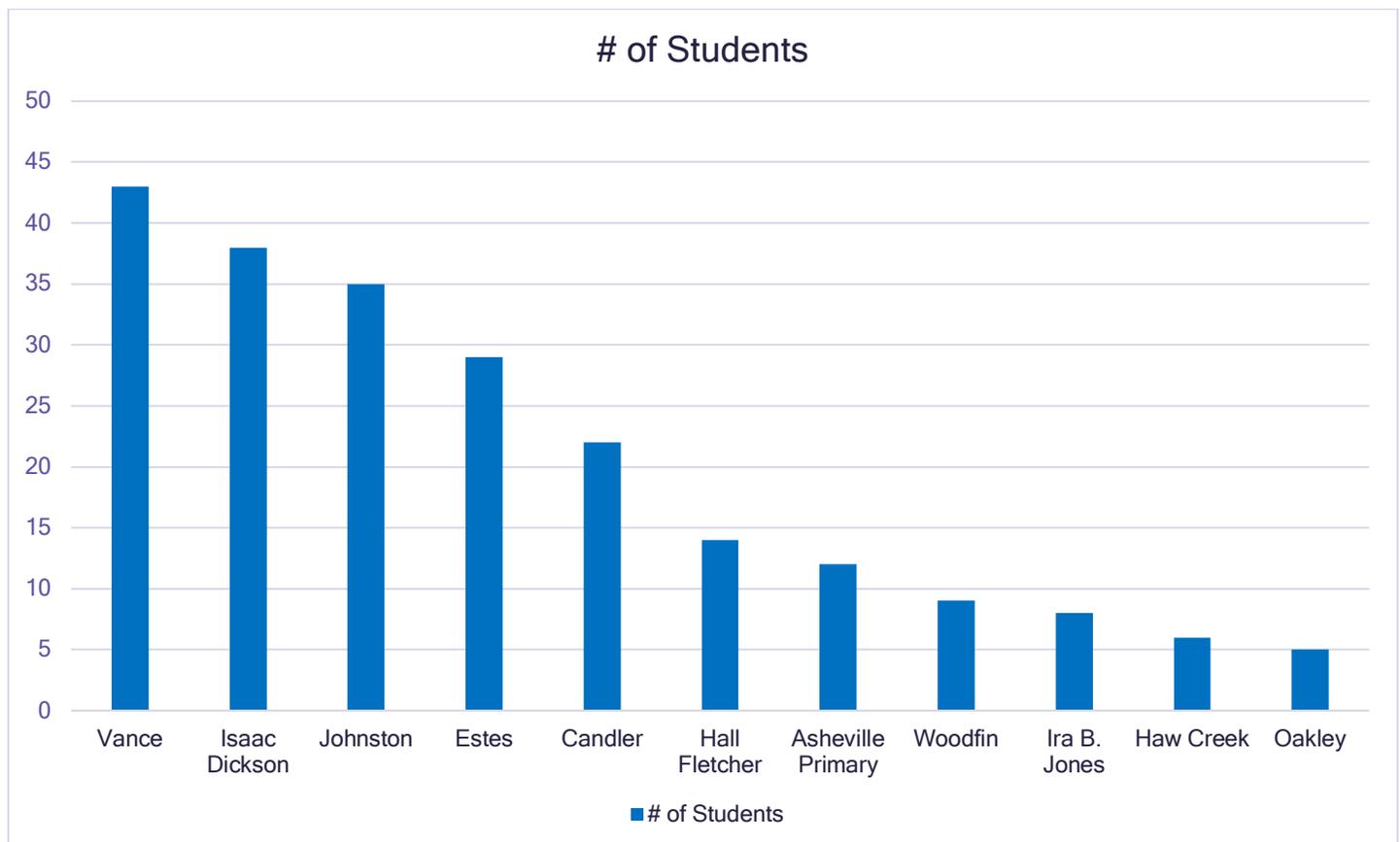
Student Demographics

We primarily serve kids in grades K-3, though we have a small group of reading tutors working with a handful of 4th graders.



Our Partner Schools

We currently work in 11 different schools in the Asheville City and Buncombe County Schools systems.



Our Volunteers

R2S continues to attract skilled, committed, and energetic volunteers each year. For the 2018-2019 school year, we had a total of 200 volunteers working in different roles, including 159 reading tutors.

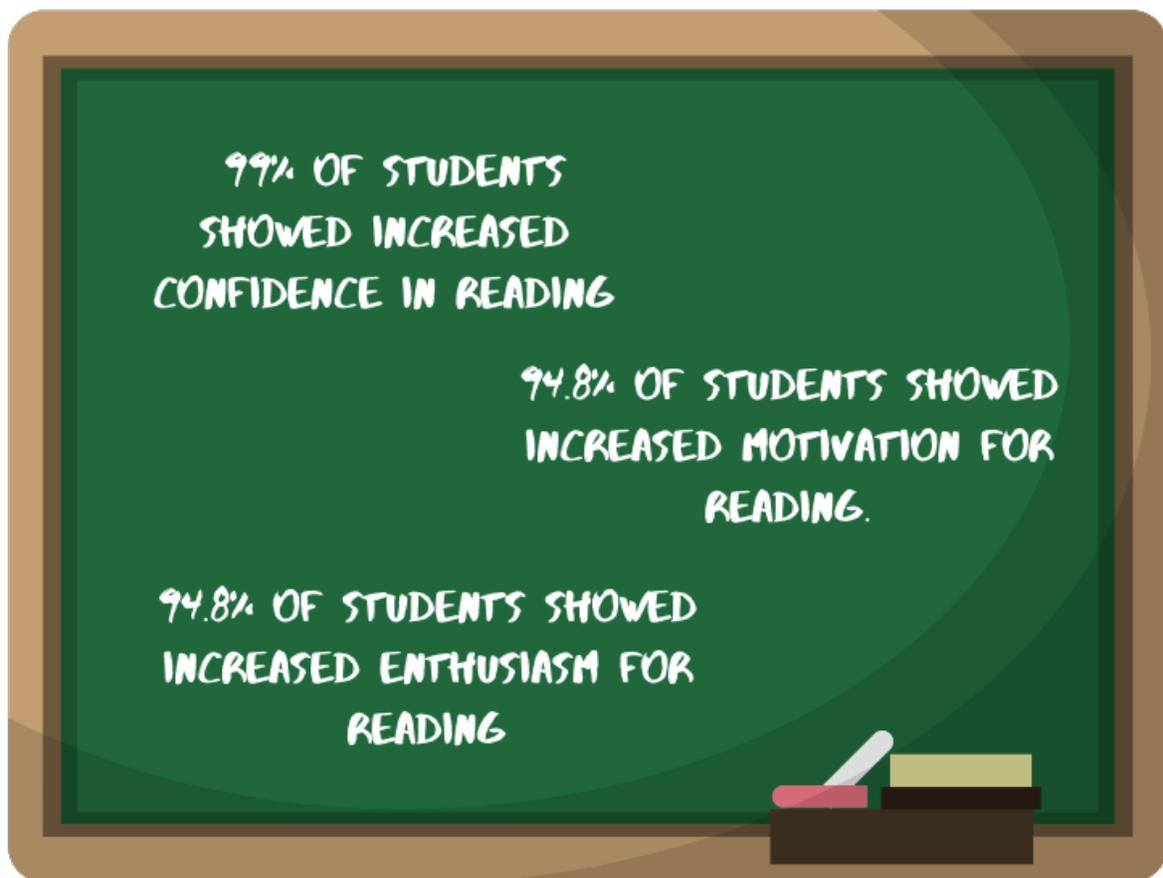
Select volunteers also took on additional leadership roles to help provide guidance and support to tutors at their school, and to observe tutors with students for evaluation.



THE OUTCOMES: TEACHER PERSPECTIVES

Classroom teachers have the most opportunity to observe the progress of Read to Succeed students. For this reason, we survey them at the close of the school year to ensure our high level of program fidelity is maintained.

When asked, “How much progress the student had made?” on three behaviors needed by new readers, teachers replied the most progress was made in students’ confidence in their ability to learn to read, followed by their motivation and enthusiasm for reading.



When asked if they “would be interested in having additional Read to Succeed volunteers next year,” 100 percent of teachers responded with a resounding “YES!”

Classroom teachers believe one-to-one intervention boosts students’ confidence and motivation and produces optimal results.

"V. is excited to see me, engages in the book reading and loves to put stickers on the schedule card each week. Taking that home is important to her as well as the index cards with sight words that she can practice. She is delightful!"

Susan P., Reading Tutor, 1st Grade



"I have learned to allow her to direct some of the lesson. She has a playful style and wants me to answer questions and identify words along with her. She hugs the grease board to her chest and writes out words for me to guess by the first sound in the word. She then says, "Now it's your turn to write a word and I'll guess!"

Marti D., Reading Tutor, Kindergarten

"It is consistently impressive how well R. is able to figure out and successfully pronounce words he doesn't know, simply by the clues he gets from the context of the story."

Bob S., Reading Tutor, 2nd Grade

"Her teacher came up to me on the last day and thanked me. She said M. tested at grade level and that she was thrilled. She was concerned at the beginning of the year but she really thought some special attention helped her. Ms. D. asked to give me a hug and it was a wonderful feeling to help [my student]."

Theresa G., Reading Tutor, 1st Grade

"K. and I have developed a very caring relationship. She enjoys the books we read and always greets me with a warm smile!"

Wendy C., Reading Tutor, 3rd Grade

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



The heart of Read to Succeed is our volunteers. This dynamic, passionate, and dedicated group, made up of reading tutors and behind-the-scenes staff, is the reason we are able to serve hundreds of students each school year. In addition to multi-day training sessions that span several hours a day, our volunteer reading tutors also participate in continuing education workshops, monthly meetings, and, most importantly, weekly sessions reading with and tutoring their students. And they keep coming back for more! We frequently see volunteers scheduling extra reading sessions with students to help them stay on track and hit milestones.

Our amazing volunteers behind the scenes help organize our library, answer phones, order supplies, and keep the office functioning smoothly year-round. We also have volunteer tutors who have taken on extra roles, such as assisting with trainings and assessments. And lastly, our volunteer board of directors provides much-needed guidance when it comes to setting policy, conducting financial oversight, and coordinating committees that all drive Read to Succeed's growth and help us realize our mission of serving more students.

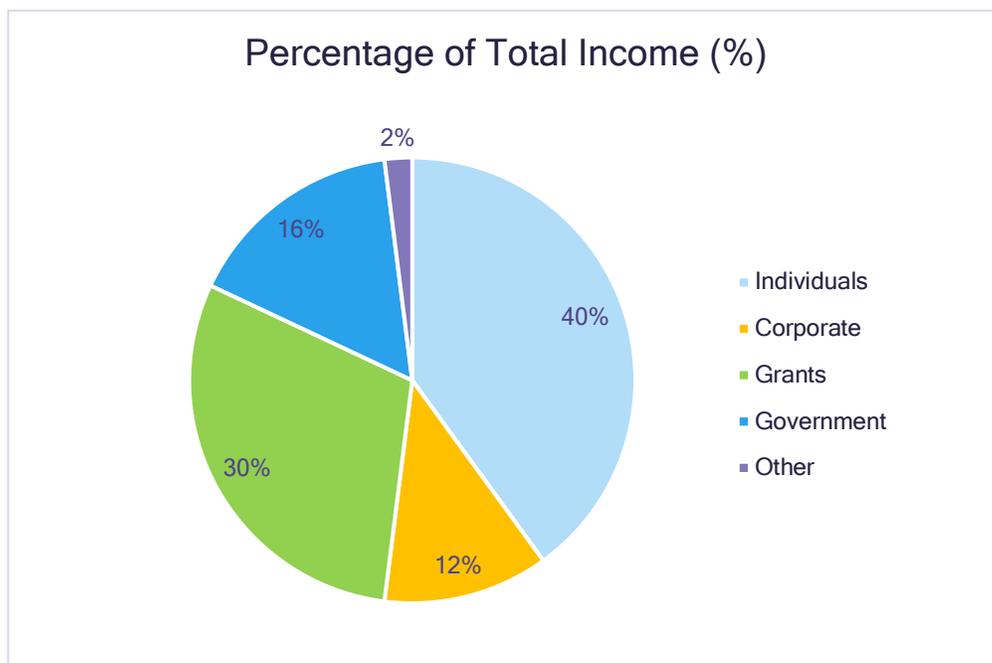
On behalf of all the students we have the honor of serving, we offer our heartfelt thanks to each and every Read to Succeed volunteer.

2018-2019 Board Members

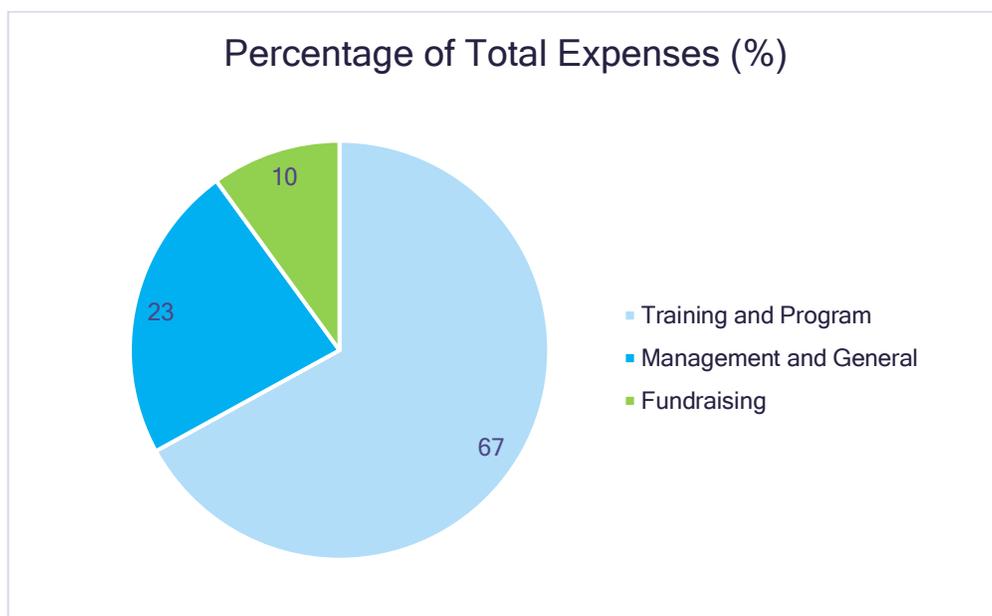
Pat Bastian, President • Charlie Schieren, Vice President • Rick Hebert, Treasurer
 Diane Amos, Secretary • Ile Adaramola • Barbara Cary • Alice Oglesby
 Daniel Withrow • Gene Bell

R2S 2018 – 2019 FINANCES

2018 - 2019 saw a roughly 15% increase in overall income and a 36% increase in expenses over the previous year to help accomplish Read to Succeed's goal of serving more students.



TOTAL: \$171,577



TOTAL: \$171,897

DONATE TO HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO READ TO SUCCEED

Your tax-deductible donation helps to provide one-to-one tutoring to a K-3rd grade student who is below grade-level reading.



Donate Online

Visit www.r2sasheville.org anytime to make an online contribution. It is easy, quick and secure.



Mail a Check

Send your gift by mail to Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe, PO Box 18652, Asheville, NC 28814.



Donate Stock or Real Estate

Make a donation of stock or real estate. Please call 828-747-2277, and we will assist you.



Ask Your Company to Match

Check with your employer about your company's matching gift program.



Leave a Lasting Legacy

Honor or remember a family member, friend or colleague with a gift to R2S, or create a personal legacy by remembering R2S in your will.

Call Read To Succeed Asheville/Buncombe at 828-747-2277 or email info@r2sasheville.org for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to all the businesses, nonprofits, and individuals who have supported our work during the past year. Without your financial and moral support, fewer students would be reading at grade-level today.

Advanced Superabrasives, Inc.
Aeroflow, Inc.
Asheville City Schools
Beth Ha-Tephila Congregation
Borg Warner Foundation
BorgWarner Turbo Systems, Asheville
Buncombe County
Buncombe County Schools
Celine & Company
Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community
Glass Foundation
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Gray Line Trolley Tours of Asheville
Housing Authority of the City of Asheville
Jaguar Land Rover Asheville
Leadership Asheville
Mix 96.5
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Rotary Club of Asheville
Table for Two Pottery
The Cathedral of All Souls
The City of Asheville
The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
The Junior League of Asheville
Trinity Episcopal
United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County
University of North Carolina Asheville
Wells Fargo Foundation
WNC Bridge Foundation
WK Kellogg Foundation

DONATE

Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Send checks to Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe

PO Box 18652

Asheville, NC 28814

Or make a donation via our website at www.r2sasheville.org.

VOLUNTEER

Enroll for training as a volunteer reading tutor and be matched with an Asheville or Buncombe County elementary school student.

Visit www.r2sasheville.org/reading-tutor.

PARTNER

Find out how your organization can partner with Read to Succeed.

Email info@r2sasheville.org.

CONNECT

Visit: www.r2sasheville.org • Email: info@r2sasheville.org • Call: (828) 747-2277

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**READ²
SUCCEED**
ASHEVILLE / BUNCOMBE