

# Learn **UNITED**, LIVE UNITED

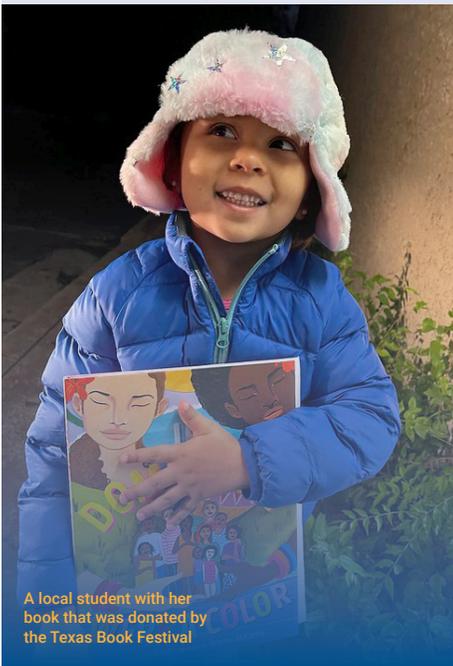
## OUR GOAL

Children are reading on grade level by the 4th grade, a critical time when children transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”

### CURRENT REALITY

# 30%

of children from families with low income pass their 3rd grade reading STAAR test



A local student with her book that was donated by the Texas Book Festival

### HOW WE'RE HELPING

## Meet the **Greater Austin Reading Coalition**

Founded in 2021, the Greater Austin Reading Coalition is a diverse coalition of nonprofit and community leaders, librarians, teachers, and parents working toward a shared vision of supporting children, grades K-3, to ensure they are reading on grade level by the fourth grade – a pivotal point in a child’s reading development. The Greater Austin Reading Coalition is convened by United Way for Greater Austin as part of our collective impact work to fight poverty.

## The Coalition’s Strategic Goals

The long-term goal of the Greater Austin Reading Coalition is to ensure that all children are reading on or above grade level by the fourth grade.

To achieve this, our coalition has four strategic goals that will not only build a community culture of reading within Greater Austin, but also address the barriers that many children and families face in accessing culturally relevant reading materials and building grade-level reading proficiency.

### The coalition’s strategic goals are to:

- Build a community culture of reading for fun and learning, cultivating a love of books within children
- Provide enriching out-of-school time (OST) services with literacy goals
- Engage parents and caretakers, creating accessible resources for building their child(ren)’s reading proficiency
- Provide OST high-dosage tutoring, supporting reading skill development

By the end of third grade, children transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”



**MORE ON HOW WE’RE HELPING**

**“Learning to Read” to “Reading to Learn”**

Fourth grade marks a pivotal time in children’s development when they transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” If a student is not reading at grade level, they can fall behind. Students who are reading on grade level by fourth grade are four times more likely to graduate high school.

Currently in our community, only three in 10 children from families with low income are reading on grade level by the fourth grade – compared to six in 10 children from families with moderate to high income.

By increasing access to quality out-of-school learning opportunities, culturally-relevant books, and building a community culture of reading, we can move the needle on grade-level reading rates in our community and create greater opportunity for local children and families.

**IMPACT AT A GLANCE**

**38,200**

**books (and counting!)  
in the hands of young  
readers**

**Our Community Investments**



**\$70,000**

invested in local, community-based organizations to **support literacy programs and services**

**\$25,000** data

**\$16,500**

summer literacy tutoring

The increased earning potential of an individual who attains a high school diploma or goes on to attain a college degree is substantially greater than those who do not have the opportunity to do so.



A child at a Family Literacy Night sponsored by the Greater Austin Reading Coalition