

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

34%

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 network 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 break economic barriers and build opportunity for all.

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 end of third 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.”



United Way for Greater Austin brings our community together to break economic barriers and build opportunity for all.

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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.

That’s why the Greater Austin Reading Coalition has invested in out-of-school time services and programs that directly benefit children and families. 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

140,249

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

Our Community Investments

\$115,000

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

\$25,000

supports data collection on quality and access to literacy services

\$19,000

supports summer literacy tutoring



Students who are reading on grade level by fourth grade are four times more likely to graduate high school.



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