

# TURNING THE PAGE

2018-2019 IMPACT REPORT



**Literacy First**

# A PERSISTENT PROBLEM



At age 4, many students begin school already a year behind.

Texas is ranked 46th in 4th grade reading according to the Nation's Report Card.

57% of Central Texas 3rd grade students are reading below grade level.

A child in poverty is 4 times more likely to drop out of school if they cannot read by 3rd grade.

More than 65% of low-income Texas students are not "Kindergarten Ready" when they begin school.



## NEEDS A STRONG SOLUTION

### One-to-One

Literacy First tutors work with each child one-to-one, providing undivided attention.

The lesson framework developed by our staff of literacy experts targets the most critical skills – letter-sound knowledge, phonics, and fluency.

### Backed by Science

### Intensive

Our tutors work with each child for 20-30 minutes every single day.

The progress of every student is monitored weekly. Data is shared regularly with our school partners to ensure students receive the support they need.

### Data Driven

### Highly-Trained

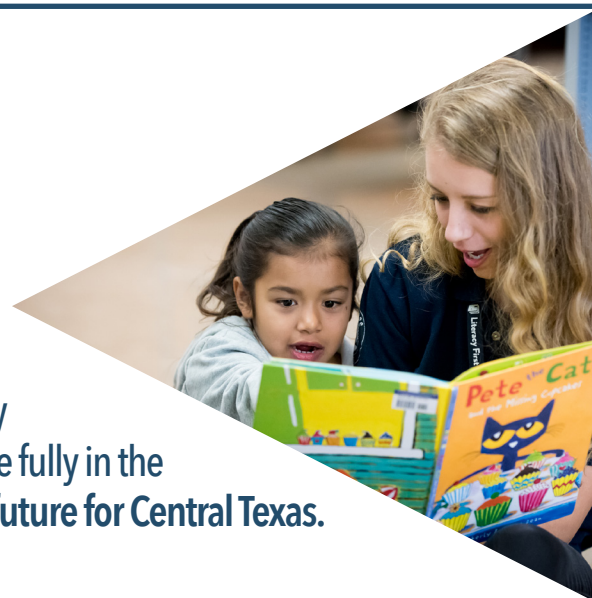
Tutors receive more than 60 hours of literacy training during the year, plus weekly on-site coaching from Literacy First staff.

On average, 45% of our tutors are bilingual (Spanish and English), so we can meet the needs of our student population.

### Bilingual

# LASTING IMPACT

Literacy First has a bold vision that all students are strong readers before 3rd grade. This is not only possible, it is imperative for the health of our community. Students who receive Literacy First tutoring learn to read so they may read to learn for years to come, allowing them to participate fully in the classroom and in life. **Literacy First is building a brighter future for Central Texas.**



## Proven Results

Literacy First students do significantly better than students who started at the same reading level but do not participate in the program.

Literacy First students score higher on early reading tests and maintain those gains years after leaving the program.

## Sustained Improvement

## Reduced Retention Rates

On average, 99.7% of students served by Literacy First are promoted to the next grade.

Literacy First 2nd graders who reach grade level pass the state-mandated reading assessment (STAAR) at a 30% higher rate than their peers not in the program.

## STAAR Students

## Achieving Potential

Literacy First tutors worked with 80% of those K-2 students that moved from being identified as at-risk to not-at-risk over the course of a year.

At least 80% of Literacy First students show measurable improvement in reading skills, and 63% are reading at or near grade level by the end of the year.

## Closing the Gap

## Randomized Control Trial Results

During the 2018–2019 school year, the American Institutes for Research partnered with Literacy First to conduct an independent evaluation of the impact of the Literacy First program on student outcomes. The evaluation used a multi-site randomized controlled trial design across 22 schools in the Austin Independent School District. Overall, the study showed that students who received Literacy First tutoring outperformed students who did not receive Literacy First tutoring on all five of the outcome measures included in the evaluation.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)



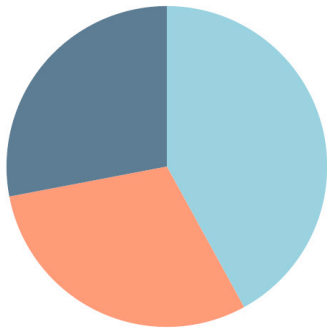


21,500+ children have discovered their potential over 26 years.

# STUDENTS

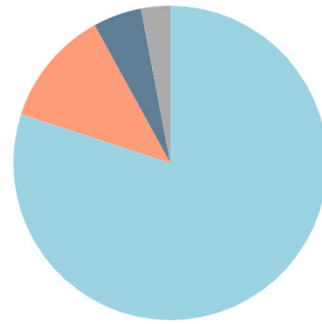
*All following data represents 2018-2019 students.*

## WHAT GRADES?



Kindergarten 42% • First Grade 30% • Second Grade 28%

## WHAT ETHNICITIES?



Hispanic 80% • African American 12% • Caucasian 5% • Multi-Racial/Unknown 3%

87%

87% of the children we tutored live in poverty.

50%

Gender was evenly split between male and female students.

## SERVICE STATS

Literacy First served  
**1,542**  
K-2 students.

**\$1,500**  
covers the cost to serve  
**each**  
**student.**

We worked with  
**25**  
**schools**  
in Central Texas.

1,200+ tutors have made a difference in our community since 1994.



# TUTORS

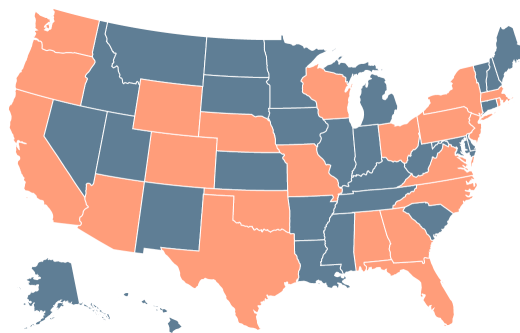
*All following data represents 2018-2019 tutors.*

## EDUCATOR PIPELINE



**14 tutors** who served in 2018-2019 accepted a position in education for the 2019-2020 school year. Over all time, 85+ tutors have gone on to become local teachers.

## WHERE WERE THEY FROM?



Tutors came from **22 U.S. states and France** to serve the Central Texas community.

**33%**

Twenty-nine Literacy First tutors (33%) were first-generation college students.

**88**

Literacy First deployed eighty-eight tutors.

# ABOVE & BEYOND

Tutors participated in  
**9,103**  
hours of professional development.

Tutors provided  
**90,000+**  
tutoring sessions.

Tutors gave an additional  
**6,757**  
service hours\*  
to local nonprofits through after-school partnerships.

\* In addition to Literacy First, tutors volunteer at community nonprofits such as the Boys & Girls Club and Latinas.



## *WHAT'S NEXT*

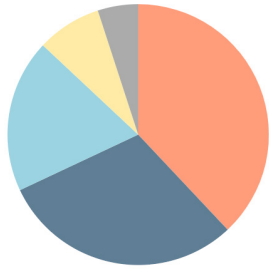
# LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Literacy First tutors who return to serve an additional year are eligible to become Literacy First Leaders. These tutors take on additional responsibilities as leaders and mentors for their respective campus teams. To ensure success in their expanded role, Literacy First Leaders participate in additional training throughout the service term. These trainings were formalized in 2018-2019 as the Literacy First Leadership Academy, with 22 returning tutors participating. In 2019-2020, the Leadership Academy includes a 2-day August leadership immersion experience and twice-monthly meetings throughout the school year, each focused on effective practice and content of four established leadership domains - Leading Self, Leading Teams, Leadership & Communication, and Leading Systems.

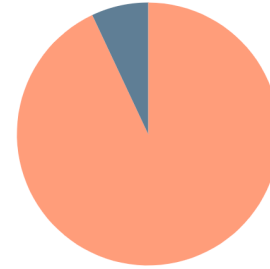
## GROWTH IN DEL VALLE ISD

During the 2018-2019 school year, Literacy First piloted a new program delivery model in the Del Valle Independent School District (DVISD). Literacy First staff trained full-time tutors hired from the community by DVISD, along with the school Reading Specialist, to deliver the Literacy First program. The pilot was resoundingly successful, with the same strong results in DVISD as are seen in schools with our traditional AmeriCorps model. With the support of Del Valle Administrators and the Board of Trustees, the program has expanded to all 9 DVISD schools in the 2019-2020 school year. Working with up to 45 tutors and staff, Literacy First will reach approximately 650 K-2nd grade students in DVISD. With this model, Literacy First can empower districts to build their own internal capacity to improve early reading, as well as build a workforce pipeline for members of the community.

# INCOME & EXPENSE



AmeriCorps 38% • Schools 29% •  
Foundations 20% • Individuals 8%  
Corporations 5%



Direct Program 92%  
Core Mission Support 8%

*Without critical administrative, fundraising, and other support services, we would be unable to efficiently carry out our mission.*

## A CLEAR VISION



Daniel\* was a 1st grade student who appeared nervous and distracted in his first lessons with his Literacy First tutor, Alicia\*. He struggled tremendously as they reviewed letter sounds, often trying to avoid the lesson altogether by bringing up other topics of conversation. Although these chats weren't improving his reading skills, they served to bond Daniel and his tutor quickly. When he spotted Alicia in the hallway one morning, Daniel bolted out of his class line to greet her, and she noticed that he was wearing reading glasses, something he had never done in their lessons. When Alicia asked Daniel about the eyewear, he admitted he often forgot his glasses at home. Alicia gently explained to Daniel that their lessons would only be able to continue if he could see properly. From that day forward, Daniel never forgot his glasses again. Able to participate fully in lessons, he began to make progress. He worked hard to impress Alicia, and in a few short months, reached grade level in reading. When Alicia presented Daniel with his Literacy First graduation certificate, he asked whether it meant that he wouldn't get to see her anymore. She told him that no, she wouldn't be picking him up for lessons, but that they'd always be friends, and she would still see him in the hallways. And with his glasses on, he'd be able to see her, too.

*\*Names have been changed.*

### SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU

have allowed Literacy First to thrive,  
innovate, advocate for struggling readers,  
and develop compassionate community members for 26 years.  
With your support, we will deliver our program to over 1,600 children in 2019-2020.

**THANK YOU.**



# GET INVOLVED

## Advisory Board

Support the Literacy First program in fundraising efforts, stewardship and tutor support, and advise on program design.

## Literacy Luncheon

Assist Literacy First staff with planning annual luncheon fundraiser that brings together more than 200 compassionate Austinites to celebrate Literacy First.

## Study Social

Plan and host annual "party with a purpose" for 175 of Austin's civic-minded young professionals.

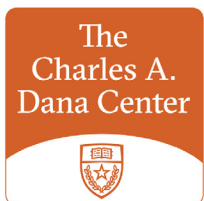
## Leaders for Literacy

Develop and lead initiatives that provide support for Literacy First tutors and children served by the program.

# SPECIAL THANKS



**AmeriCorps** is a network of national service programs that gives people the chance to serve in locations across the country. AmeriCorps\*Texas programs give members the opportunity to strengthen Texas communities while being part of a national service movement.



**Literacy First** is a program of the Charles A. Dana Center in the College of Natural Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin, which works with our nation's education systems to ensure that every student leaves school prepared for success in a post-secondary education and the contemporary workplace.

*Literacy First places highly trained tutors in low-income schools to deliver intensive, effective literacy tutoring to advance K-2nd grade students to grade level in reading before 3rd grade.*

[WWW.LITERACYFIRST.ORG](http://WWW.LITERACYFIRST.ORG)



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