



# Colorado Reading Corps IMPACT REPORT

## 2019-2020 END-OF-YEAR

### Colorado Reading Corps-All Districts



**Number of Active Tutors**

*Active Reading Corps Members*

**63**



**Number of School Sites**

**61**



**Number of Students Served**

*Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*

**1,268**



**Students above Target Growth**

*Student exceeding target growth is on pace to close their achievement gap.*

**724**



**Percent Students above Target Growth**

*Number of students above target growth/number of students served.*

**68%**



**Total Tutoring Hours**

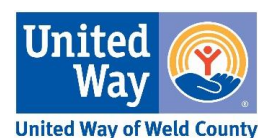
**18,333**



**Program Fidelity Rate**

*Percentage of accuracy for both interventions and assessments implemented*

**97%**



## Other Accomplishments

- We piloted a new intervention called Word Construction, which was successful and will replace Great Leaps next school year. Word Construction is a one-on-one intervention that emphasizes phonics and fluency. The intervention lessons use letter tiles to build words, write and read words, and build fluency with a carefully developed scope and sequence of the lessons. Students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades are candidates for Word Construction, depending on their reading assessment data.
- In addition to strong tutor recruitment, we're seeing an increase in returning tutors for the 2020-2021 school year. At least 19 AmeriCorps members are returning for a second term of service.
- CYC's expanded partnership in Greeley grew from 10 to 15 school sites because the district has been so supportive of the program.
- The team pivoted in March and April to virtual tutoring after schools closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tutors provided 198 students with more than 700 hours of virtual tutoring. Each district used different online platforms and implemented different approaches to student learning, so AmeriCorps members had to get creative through one-on-one virtual interventions as well as pre-recorded readings for students.

## Looking Ahead

- Schools are uncertain about 2020-2021 budgets, so the team is still finalizing school sites. While the matching cost for schools is relatively low, at \$10,000, it can still be a stretch when dollars are so tight.
- Approval was granted to replicate the Pre-K model and expand in Colorado to serve 3-5 year olds in licensed facilities. Partnerships with Pre-K centers in Thornton and Greeley have already been identified and we are looking for others this summer as well.
- We are preparing for online, hybrid or in-person delivery methods in the fall. AmeriCorps member training will shift to a virtual platform, but each district could look different in terms of implementation throughout the school year. Staff members are also looking at other community partners, beyond schools, where the program might support students if in-person learning doesn't return in the fall.

## Serving Students Through the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Story of Hope

"As we are working online from home and getting creative to stay in touch with students, I have devised a way to still read to them daily. I make videos of read-alouds and upload them to each classroom. Students are able to reply to me questions, ideas, or comments about the story.

A mother of one of my students reached out to me last week to let me know she is using my videos as a reward to her son for good behavior at the end of each day. He even decided to watch one in lieu of playing a video game before bed! It was at that point that she understood the connection we had. Her son proceeded to comment to me how much he missed me and working with letter tiles each day, but he liked hearing my voice and seeing my face in the videos.

I was so moved to get this feedback because you never really know if you are touching someone's life. It really showed me that even during the pandemic, it is important to stay connected and try to remain a consistent player in our students' lives!" Kirin, 2019-2020 AmeriCorps tutor



“It’s (Colorado Reading Corps) a great first line of defense. And often it can be our only line of defense because it is so effective.”

Principal, Jeffco Public Schools

## Discovering New Passions through Reading

“I have a student I am particularly proud of this year; we’ll call him Jay. Jay was particularly nervous and shy when I first started meeting with him. He didn’t like to read out loud, and it was difficult to get much out of him. Anytime he was nervous, he would start to stutter, which would fluster him even more. My role was to make our reading time a safe zone for him, and a space he could enjoy. I like to get to know what makes my students tick – what excites them, what do they enjoy? Initially, Jay didn’t have much to say about his favorite things or what he wanted to be when he grows up. After a couple weeks, however, I found out that he has a pet dog, who he loves very much.

We started reading more about animals as I hoped this might be something he might enjoy. One day, we were reading a non-fiction piece about some of the illnesses you can get from your pets; I have never seen him read so expressively before! We started reading more about illnesses, and he has opened up so much and really taken off as a reader. Now he wants to learn all about diseases and has proudly shared that he is going to be an epidemiologist when he grows up! He plans to discover the cure to staphylococcus zooepidemicus (say that five times fast)!” Jenelle, AmeriCorps tutor



“My view on education changed through my service term by acknowledging the importance of reading. I always thought that when you read a lot you become a better reader. While that is true, there are also other elements to become a better reader and that starts from learning fundamental skills such as phonemic awareness and word blending. Helping young students learn and acquire the skills that they need to become a better reader at an early stage will help them succeed in the future!” Victoria, 2019-2020 AmeriCorps tutor