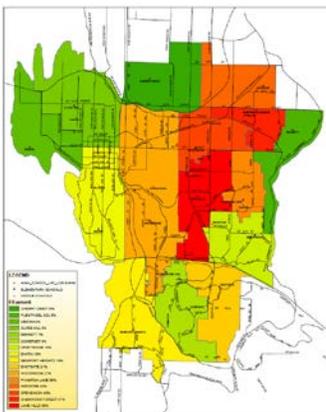


Every child needs to read proficiently by third grade.

Strong evidence shows that reading proficiently by the end of third grade is a key predictor of high school graduation and career success. This critical milestone marks the transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. One in six children who miss this mark by the end of third grade don't graduate from high school on time—or at all. Children who were poor for at least a year and were not reading proficiently in third grade, face even higher odds—more than 25 % of those students won't graduate on time. (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2016).



Project READiness early literacy support helps kids in Bellevue's high need schools become strong readers by third grade



Map of free/reduced-price lunch percentages by elementary school boundary area. Central Bellevue "red zone" shows areas of high poverty.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Project READiness provides early literacy support in six schools serving Bellevue's low-income neighborhoods, including Ardmore, Lake Hills, Phantom Lake, Sherwood Forest, Stevenson, and Woodridge elementary schools, where poverty reaches over 50%. Our community-wide goal is to help *every* child read proficiently by third grade, and this program addresses schools with the largest proficiency gaps.

Project READiness provides trained instructional aides to kindergarten and first grade classrooms during their literacy block, freeing the classroom teacher, the most qualified professional, to deliver individual and small group instruction to students and help them develop their reading skills.

The Foundation coordinates with Bellevue School District's Title I program and other programs that support achievement in struggling populations. The

Foundation also collaborates with other organizations that provide or coordinate services, such as the City of Bellevue and Eastside Pathways, to maximize collective impact. Together, we can change student achievement trajectories and support all children on the path to graduation and success in the college and career of their choosing.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Data recorded by schools to evaluate success of the projects includes beginning-, middle- and end-of-year assessments for kindergarten and first grade students. In addition, schools collect longitudinal data for reading proficiency in third grade.

Budget: \$255,000

Timeline: September 2017 – July 2018