

Hello Friends and Family!

I'm reaching out today with a special request. I am a supporter of Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe, a local literacy nonprofit in Asheville dedicated to closing the race-based opportunity gap through community-powered literacy programming.

For thirty years, literacy rates among young children in the U.S. have remained largely unchanged. While science shows us 95% of **all** children can learn to read (no matter their race, socio-economic background, or location), we still see 34% of fourth-graders in our country reading below a basic level.

**In Asheville, fewer than 25% of Black 3rd-8th graders read at grade-level - this statistic reflects one of the worst opportunity gaps between Black and white students in the entire U.S.**

At Read to Succeed, we know improving literacy rates and closing the opportunity gap comes down to high-quality instruction and community and family-powered literacy programming. That's why we:

- Train volunteer tutors in foundational reading skills to tutor K-3 students in our local schools
- Support early childhood partners working with children 0-5 years
- Conduct literacy workshops and family reading events with community partners
- Distribute literacy resources, books, and family reading materials to education partners and children

**Our goal is to raise \$30,000 by August 31st to meet our financial expenses not covered by grants. I would really appreciate your help meeting this goal!**

Learning to read means being able to learn, apply for jobs, vote, volunteer, read prescriptions, explore the world, and so much more! When you invest in literacy, you help unlock potential and open the door to opportunity for young children.

**To donate today: [r2sasheville.org/bright-future](https://r2sasheville.org/bright-future) (online form or Paypal available), or send a check to Read to Succeed, P.O. Box 18652, Asheville, NC 28814.**

I sincerely appreciate your support!