



## **Join the Movement: Addressing Pennsylvania's Literacy Crisis Together**

### **Why Joining the Coalition Matters:**

- Broad organizational support is essential to demonstrate to legislators that our coalition represents the diverse voices and needs of Pennsylvania. We unite organizations that vary demographically, geographically, and across sectors, each bringing unique insights and expertise to the table.
- These diverse perspectives strengthen our advocacy, grounding it in a fuller understanding of the challenges and needs facing communities across the state. Together, we are working to secure the strongest possible outcomes for Pennsylvania's students, educators, families, and communities.
- The larger and more diverse our coalition, the greater our reach—and the stronger our voice in shaping policy. Our partner organizations enhance our credibility and underscore that we are a strong, multifaceted network—including representatives from education, business, and other sectors—committed to sustainable solutions for Pennsylvania's literacy crisis.

### **What We Ask of Coalition Partners:**

- **Share Your Logo** – We proudly display partner logos on our website's "Home" and "About Us" pages, showcasing the breadth of organizations backing our mission. This visibility underscores the collective commitment of our network to advancing literacy reform in Pennsylvania.
- **Join Our Calls** – While attendance is optional, we encourage any interested team members from partner organizations to participate in our coalition calls on the [second Wednesday of each month](#). These calls offer a chance to connect, strategize, and stay informed on our shared efforts and priorities.
- **Lend Your Support** – When action items arise, we ask partners to help amplify our message by sharing updates on social media and within their networks. We also welcome your participation on coalition committees and at in-person events, including our annual summit and Capitol Day.

### **Who Needs to Sign-on As a Coalition Partner:**

- A sign-on to the coalition should be approved by an authorized representative within the organization, such as a president, CEO, executive director, policy director, or another team member empowered to endorse organizational support.
- If needed, members of the Pennsylvania Literacy Coalition leadership team are available to meet virtually—or in person when possible—to discuss our current policy priorities and overarching goals. We welcome the opportunity to ensure potential partners are fully informed and aligned with the coalition's mission.

**Sign on to the coalition at [paliteracy.org/join-us](https://paliteracy.org/join-us)!**

### **Questions?**

Email Coalition Manager, Rachael Garnick at [rgarnick@teachplus.org](mailto:rgarnick@teachplus.org).

## **About the Pennsylvania Literacy Coalition**

According to the [Nation's Report Card](#), only 33% of Pennsylvania fourth graders read proficiently—and rates are even lower for marginalized students. These numbers represent real children who are left behind, unable to fully participate in school, the workforce, or society because they were never effectively taught to read and write. This is more than an education issue—it's a crisis with deep economic, social, and personal consequences. Children who don't read proficiently by fourth grade are more likely to fall behind across subjects, drop out of school, and face limited career opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and incarceration.

Launched in January 2025, the Pennsylvania Literacy Coalition (PLC) is a diverse, cross-sector network committed to transforming literacy outcomes statewide. United by a shared mission, PLC members advocate for comprehensive, evidence-based literacy policy—because when kids read, PA succeeds.

### **Our Vision**

We envision a Pennsylvania where every child becomes a confident, proficient reader and writer, equipped with the literacy skills essential for lifelong success. In this future, all educators will be empowered with the knowledge, training, and resources necessary to provide effective, evidence-based literacy instruction, ensuring that every student—regardless of their background—can thrive. Through this commitment, we seek to create a future where literacy opens doors for all students and strengthens communities across our state.

### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to unite educators, caregivers, community members, leaders, and advocates throughout Pennsylvania to advance policies and secure funding for evidence-based literacy instruction. We are dedicated to ensuring that every student, regardless of background, has access to high-quality literacy education, delivered by well-prepared and knowledgeable educators. By advocating for strong public policy and investing in teacher training, curricula, and classroom support, we aim to equip every child in Pennsylvania with the foundational literacy skills necessary for success in school and beyond.

### **Our Approach**

We combine advocacy, education, and collaboration to drive literacy progress across Pennsylvania. We are committed to raising awareness about the urgent literacy crisis in our state, engaging communities, and mobilizing advocates to take action. Through strategic outreach and policymaker engagement, we're fighting for a \$100 million investment in early literacy—focused on evidence-based screeners and interventions, instructional materials rooted in the science of reading, and educator training and coaching in structured literacy. By educating leaders from all sectors—including teachers, school leaders, community members, and legislators—we aim to ensure every child receives the high-quality literacy instruction they deserve. Through strong partnerships and a united statewide movement, we are working to create lasting change in Pennsylvania's literacy outcomes.

### **Our Members**

The Pennsylvania Literacy Coalition (PLC) is an independent, nonpartisan coalition dedicated to advancing evidence-based literacy policy. To maintain the integrity of our advocacy, PLC does not accept membership from literacy vendors or companies that sell curriculum, instructional materials, or assessments.

We do not allow vendors to influence our policy goals or advocacy tactics. While individuals affiliated with such organizations are welcome to engage as advocates in a personal capacity, vendor organizations cannot be listed as official members, nor may they display their logos alongside PLC branding.

## PA Literacy Coalition Membership as of August 4, 2025

