

Turn the Page STL St. Louis' chapter of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading



The Power of Literacy in a Racially Equitable St. Louis

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The Numbers in 2022

PERCENT PROFICIENT & ADVANCED: Third Grade Reading
(English Language Arts) Proficiency Data from
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

School District	Percent of Black Students	Percent of all Students Reading Proficiently	Percent of Black Students Reading Proficiently
Riverview Gardens	96.00%	8.30%	7.60%
Jennings	99.00%	19.20%	19.20%
Kirkwood	8.90%	60.60%	13.70%
Webster Groves	9.14%	66.80%	23.40%

LITERACY IS A SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE.



What Happened?

- Systemic racism embedded in the fabric of the St. Louis community
- High poverty rates for African Americans in St. Louis
- How does segregation affect education? PROPERTY TAX
- How does racism affect education? COMMUNITY, LEARNING HAPPENS EVERYWHERE



Racial inequity in metropolitan St. Louis' public education system has contributed to generations of under literate citizens.



Turn the Page STL's Collective Impact Strategic Plan

Five Factors that lead to how (and why) a child cannot read proficiently by the end-of-third grade in the St. Louis Promise Zone Communities

1. Kindergarten Readiness
2. Summer Learning
3. Teacher Preparedness
4. Family Engagement
5. Community Awareness



Six actions that will advance racial equity

Actions school systems can control directly:

- Strengthen core early-literacy instructional practices (letter to parents)
- Use an equity framework to allocate resources, including afterschool & summer school programs
- Increase instructional time for students who need it the most - high-impact tutoring

Actions that require broad community leadership

- Ensuring access to high-quality early childhood education
- Providing wraparound services for families and communities
- Address school racial, ethnic, and economic divisions

Questions and Comments

Next Steps



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THANK YOU!!