

Building Continuity: Sustaining Community Coalitions During Leadership Transitions

December 9, 2025

@readingby3rd #GLReading #LearningTuesdays



CRUCIBLE
OF PRACTICE

Reflections on Lessons Learned

The Campaign for
GRADE-LEVEL
READING

Panelists



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Our Why



Mission

To **engage** and **educate** our community about the importance of childhood literacy and to increase **access** to literacy resources and opportunities for all children.

Vision

For every child in Wake County to be **inspired**, **equipped**, and **empowered** to read proficiently by third grade.

Values

Literacy is the **right of every child**. Community collaboration increases access to literacy resources. Every child deserves high-quality learning experiences.

Strategies During Transition



1. **Remain True to Our Mission**
2. **Maintain Trust with All Stakeholders**
3. **Evaluate Effectiveness of Historical Initiatives**
4. **Develop a Robust and Intentional Approach to Key Initiatives**

WAKE Up and Read Coalition Structure



Learning Opportunities

Providing high-quality learning opportunities for school-age students and improving student attendance.



School Readiness

Supporting children birth-5 years old and their families to ensure they are prepared to learn when entering Kindergarten.



Families as Partners

Engaging families as partners within the coalition and in their role as their child's first teacher through increased access to resources and support.



What does support look like when there is a change?



Awareness

Introductory conversation establishes a line of communication, share about CGLR through clear, accessible channels, and learn about the new person.



Opportunities

Support involvement through organized opportunities and ongoing interaction. (Examples: regional meetings, state meetings, (virtual) quarterly meetings, regular email updates,



Listening

“Engagement begins with your ears, not your mouth.” Listen to understand the perspective of the new leader, upcoming changes, and where there are common opportunities.



Support Centers on Relationships



Reflection

Collect feedback regularly to adjust resources provided and cultivate relationships within the network to further develop community lead supports with each other.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
GRADE-LEVEL READING

3RD GRADE
READING
≡ SUCCESS
MATTERS

CGLR Change in Community Lead





What does support look like when there is a change? – Same, but larger scale!

Awareness

Introductory conversation establishes a line of communication, share about CGLR through clear, accessible channels, and learn about the new person.



Opportunities

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Listening

“Engagement begins with your ears, not your mouth.” Listen to understand the perspective of the new leader, upcoming changes, and where there are common opportunities.



Support Centers on Relationships



Reflection

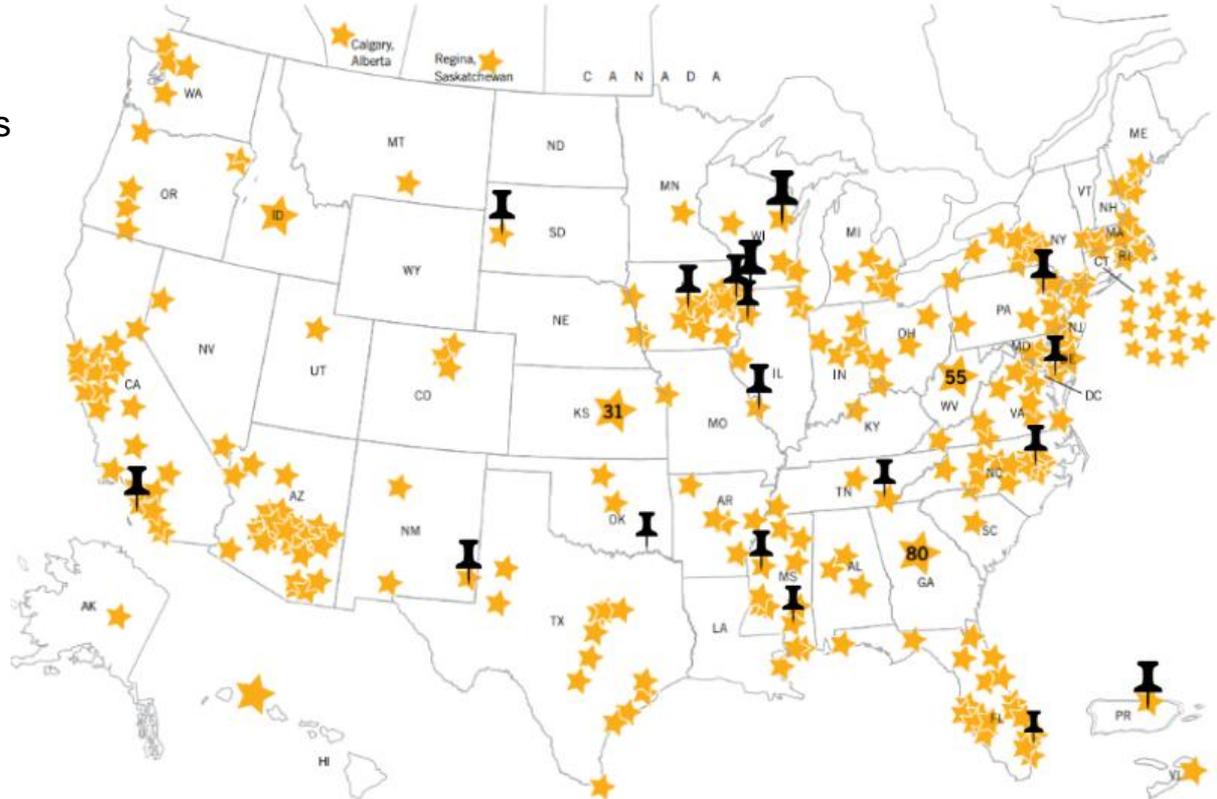
Collect feedback regularly to adjust resources provided and cultivate relationships within the network to further develop community lead supports with each other.

“Peer Circles” Program as one method of support

Each “pin” represents a community participating in this program.

“Peer Circles” program

- Pilot of 6 mo., but will definitely continue
- Hoping to bring on a 2nd Cohort in 2026
- Structure is based on BOTH small group and large group discussion with peer connections being the heart of everything.



Questions & Discussion

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

CGLR THANKS OUR **ENTERPRISE FUNDERS**



THANKS ALSO TO OUR **PROGRAMMATIC FUNDERS**

Buffett Early Childhood Fund | CW Benedum Foundation | JF Maddox Foundation
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REMAIN ANONYMOUS, FOR THEIR GENEROSITY!



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* Learning & Engagement Opportunities