

Find great reading tools and resources online at ReadToSucceedUWCI.org

- Reading Tips for Parents
- Tell a Friend: Talking Points for Early Grade Reading
- Reading Websites and Apps
- 2018 Summer Reading Program
- Answers for Your Legislator: FAQs about the Summer Reading Program
- Help Your Kids Start a Book Club
- Host a Successful Book Drive
- And More!

A PIVOTAL POINT

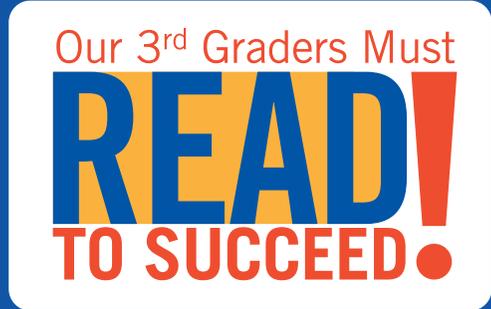
From Kindergarten through third grade, children learn to read.
After third grade, they **MUST** read to learn!



Reading proficiently by third grade is the most important predictor of a student's success in school and life.

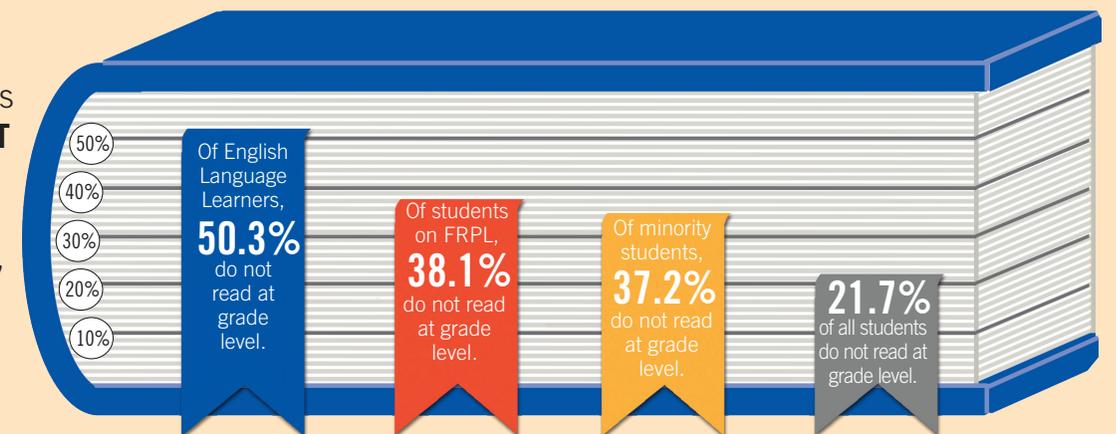
From kindergarten through third grade, students are learning to read. But after third grade, students must be able to read to learn. Students who can't read at grade level at the end of third grade are **4x** more likely to drop out before they graduate.

That's why United Way of Central Iowa launched **READ to SUCCEED**, a community-wide awareness and action campaign to help our kids get the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.



Proven strategies for parents and caregivers, volunteers and organizations to help central Iowa students **READ to SUCCEED**

Percent of third graders who are **NOT** reading at grade level across Polk, Dallas and Warren counties



1,488 central Iowa students (21.7%) are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Source: Iowa Dept. of Education, 2013-2014 school year



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PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

- **Make time to read with your child every day.**

For tips on how to make reading with your child fun and effective, and other great ideas to enhance learning opportunities, visit ReadToSucceedUWCI.org.

- **Visit the library.**

Librarians can help you choose age-appropriate books for your child, connect your child with books of interest and provide free children's reading and educational activities year-round.

- **Talk to your child's teacher.**

Ask about how your child's reading is progressing so you can advocate for your child successfully. Find out which subjects are your child's favorites.

- **Help prevent the "Summer Slide."**

- Enroll your child in quality programming during the summer months. Find lists of free & low-cost programs at ReadToSucceedUWCI.org.
- Take advantage of local amenities like parks, the zoo, museums, the science center and nature centers. These are great places to spark conversations that build vocabulary and an interest in reading more.
- Encourage your child to discuss or write about the books he or she is reading or keep a journal of favorite events and activities during the summer.
- Spend time outside taking walks, riding bikes, playing sports or just running around and being active.

VOLUNTEERS

- **Be a Power Reader.**

Power Read is a literacy mentoring program where volunteers are matched with students. Using kits developed by literacy experts, volunteers meet their students at school each week to read a book together and do a skill-building activity. Learn more at:

UnitedWayDM.org/Power-Read.

- **Contact your legislators.**

Encourage them to strengthen policies to improve third-grade reading proficiency, such as:

- Providing support for summer literacy programs. In 2018, children will be required to attend summer school if they are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade. There is currently no state funding for schools to implement this mandate.
 - Expanding the Iowa Reading Corps to help children read proficiently by the end of third grade.
 - Expanding funding for Iowa's growing English language learners (ELL).
- UnitedWayDM.org/Advocate.

ORGANIZATIONS

- **Make literacy kits.**

Literacy kits are designed by a team of literacy experts and include a book and related activities to make reading fun and interactive for children. Making the kits is a fantastic opportunity to bond with colleagues, build morale and make an impact in children's lives.

- **Organize a book drive.**

Help support reading by encouraging employees or members to donate new or gently used children's books. United Way of Central Iowa distributes thousands of donated books to a broad range of community partners and early childhood centers that help children in need.

- **Offer employees paid Volunteer Time Off (VTO.)**

Encourage your employees to volunteer for reading programs like **Power Read** by offering paid time off for volunteer work. A generous VTO policy can distinguish your organization from others and help recruit engaged, ambitious and committed people to your team.