

**The Challenge:** Less than 50% of K-2 students in RPS are on track to read on grade level by 3rd grade. Simply put, we have a literacy crisis.

**Our Charge:** Make early literacy the number one priority in RPS and do whatever it takes to ensure all students are able to read by 3rd grade.

**Why This Matters:** Beyond the fact that reading is the foundation to learning in all subjects, research has established a correlation between not reading by 3rd grade with many challenges later in life. For example, a child not reading by 3rd grade is 1200% more likely to *not* graduate from high school by age 19.

## How can RPS community partners support early literacy?

### Partner Schools

Identify and support partner schools, which are long term partnerships with a specific school to support a culture of reading and coordinating efforts as identified by school leadership and families.

### Student and Family Home Libraries

Support book donations to "Partner Schools" that reflect the rich diversity of our students

- Book Vending Machine
- Home libraries

Host a Community Literacy Event

- Reading Block Party
- Coordinate & Promote Family Literacy Night

### Literacy Mentors

Facilitate a Reading Buddies program

- Identify mentors who can share their love of reading with our students

### Extended Day/After School Care

Facilitate Out-of-School Time programs/enrichment that focus on literacy or celebrate a culture of reading

- Identify and train tutors who can provide literacy support and mentorship (RPS Office of Academics can support with training)
- Complete our [OST Partner Intent Form](#)

### Volunteer Support

Volunteer support may come from partners who leverage their "people power" as one of their assets. This could come in the form of one of our faith-based partners who has a congregation of people who ready to serve as reading buddies. Begin by completing our [Volunteer Application](#).

### Financial Support

Financial support may come from partners who are able to provide money, donations or grants to support literacy efforts throughout the division, i.e., the purchasing of books for a school's book vending machine. Learn more about [donating to RPS](#) and let us know how you would like to support by completing our [Donor Interest Form](#).

### Telling Our Story

We encourage our partners to help tell the RPS story by sharing the great work that is happening in your organizations by emailing pictures and videos of our students to [outreach@rvaschools.net](mailto:outreach@rvaschools.net). Keep us in the loop on events so that we can also share these items on RPS platforms.



Please visit [www.rvaschools.net/community-partnerships](http://www.rvaschools.net/community-partnerships) to learn more or email [outreach@rvaschools.net](mailto:outreach@rvaschools.net). To partner with a school, sponsor a vending machine or ask questions, email Partnership Coordinator Grady Hart, at [ghart@rvaschools.net](mailto:ghart@rvaschools.net).