



# 2020-2021 IMPACT REPORT



## OUR ANNUAL REACH



**1,600,000**  
Students



**260,000**  
Educators



**20,100**  
Schools

## THE NEED

Students are in greater need. Average reading scores for students were **lower in 2019 compared to 2017**. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the learning loss already experienced, especially for students of color.

**65%**

of all fourth-graders **read below proficiency**

more than

**77%**

of Black and Hispanic fourth-grade students **read below proficiency**

**4x**

Students that read below proficiency are four times more likely to drop out of high school

**1 in 5**

students in America have a **learning difference**

## OUR RESULTS

**138,659,775**

pages read through the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution

**1,442**

new audio-books titles produced

**21,203**

BVI students served

**\$1.8M**

provided in financial aid

# A WORD FROM OUR CEO

## The Power of Our Allies (Yes, You!)

The past year has taught us that we can **do better** and **do more** to close opportunity gaps so all students learn and succeed. Partners like you help us work to dramatically transform literacy rates for the more than 30 million striving readers in our country.

Learning Ally's Board-endorsed commitment to diversity and inclusion means we're always **focused on equity** inside our organization, in our partnerships, and in how we work with communities to meet the needs of our students.

Our solutions are informed by our Whole Child Literacy™ approach, weaving together the entire learning ecosystem to:

- Turn research on brain science and the sciences of reading into actionable practices;
- Prepare educators and administrators to be literacy leaders;
- Put kids in the driver's seat to direct their own learning; and,
- Empower families and communities to actively support kids' reading development.

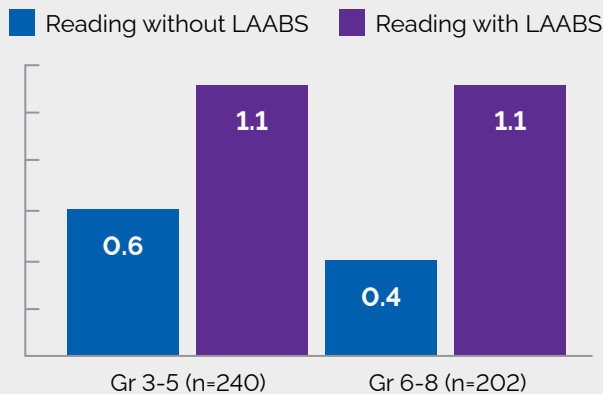
The incredible resilience and hard work of our community—whether you're a Learning Ally student or family, educator, volunteer, or donor—keeps us energized to push this work **even further, together**.



Gratefully,

Andrew Friedman  
President and CEO

## RESULTS: DOUBLE THE RATE OF READING GROWTH



Learning Ally Evaluation Study, n=1,500 students  
Gr 3-8, based on SY 2018-2019, STAR Assessment

Through our partnership with the Zarlengo Foundation, Learning Ally and the Archdiocese of Denver **achieved breakthrough results with struggling readers who saw double the rate of reading growth** in only 50 days of using LAABS. Educators, students, and families throughout the study saw improvement in reading proficiency, academic success, motivation, and a culture that fosters a joy and celebration of reading.

# ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Learning Ally partners with well-established institutions to accelerate innovation in the education space. Our current educational pilots include:



## Accelerating Comprehension for the Underprivileged

Developing groundbreaking research that supports students from low socio-economic backgrounds in building essential skills to address unfinished learning post-pandemic in partnership with MIT.



## Neuroscience Drives Early Detection Screener

Testing the Advanced Screener for Early Detection of Learning Issues in partnership with the State of California for their Dyslexia Initiative in partnership with UCSF.



## Literacy Growth in Low Performing Schools

Working with the lowest performing schools to double the rate of reading growth for struggling readers in partnership with LAUSD.



## Equity in Education Initiative

Strives to develop statewide support systems for students with learning disabilities. We partner with school districts to help identify and apply for federal funding opportunities and to impact policy change.



## Government Relations in Focus

Florida Representative Jayer Williamson supports Learning Ally's Learning Through Listening program funding request in Florida. He states *"I think anything that we, as legislators, can do to create excitement about reading and learning, is worth doing."*

Florida Senator Dennis Baxley is a long-time education policy advocate and Learning Ally supporter. He states *"providing accessible texts to students who need them is so important, and Florida could not have a better partner in that effort than Learning Ally."*

## NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year Learning Ally recognizes exceptional students with print and learning disabilities with the Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award and Marion Huber Learning Through Listening Award, and teachers who have helped struggling readers reach their potential with the Winslow Coyne Reitnouer Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2020-2021, **we were proud to acknowledge twelve students and six teachers for their outstanding achievements.**

To learn more about the accomplishments of honorees, visit [learningally.org/naa](https://learningally.org/naa).



# SUCCESS STORIES



"I love reading on Learning Ally because there are so many different books to read. My favorite book I've read on Learning Ally is Wrecking Ball Diary of a Wimpy Kid because it's funny. In 5th grade, I want to read more books on Learning Ally."

**Mateo, Elementary School Student, Columbus, OH**



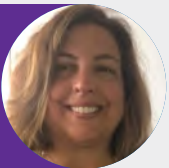
"Learning Ally allowed me to focus on reading and in a less stressful way. I was reading and learning on my own. It broadened my scope and my ability to read whatever books I wanted to read at my intellectual and grade level."

**Caragan Olles, High School Student, DePere, WI**



"The greatest difference with Learning Ally in our students, aside from their scores improving, is the social emotional learning piece. Their self-confidence grew at a rate that we wouldn't be able to manipulate in the classroom."

**Maria Arcodia, Teacher, Brooklyn, New York**



"I had a kid that was an essential employee at Walmart during the pandemic and she had a long bus ride so I said to her, "You know you could put Learning Ally on your phone? It's an app." She got through three novels driving back and forth to work because of Learning Ally. We'd have great discussions over those books."

**Jennifer Voigt, Teacher, Creve Coeur, MO**

## LEARNING ALLY'S AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Learning Ally is proud to be the recipient of many awards recognizing our transformational educational solutions.



**//CODiE//**  
2021 SIIA CODiE FINALIST



To learn more about all of our awards, visit <https://learningally.org/Awards>.

# INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers, whether individually or through our Virtual Corporate Volunteer Program, share their talents to create human-read audiobooks and provide support in roles that ensures a seamless reading experience for our struggling readers.

## INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS



**1,200+**  
Active Volunteers  
This Year



**1,400**  
Audiobooks Created  
By Volunteers



**75,000+**  
Hours Donated

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

Some of our Corporate Volunteer Partners include: [Dollar General](#), [CSAA](#), [Sage](#)



**24**  
Corporate  
Volunteer Events



**1,500+**  
Hours Donated By  
Corporate Volunteers



**688**  
Corporate  
Volunteers