

Engaging Families with Literacy

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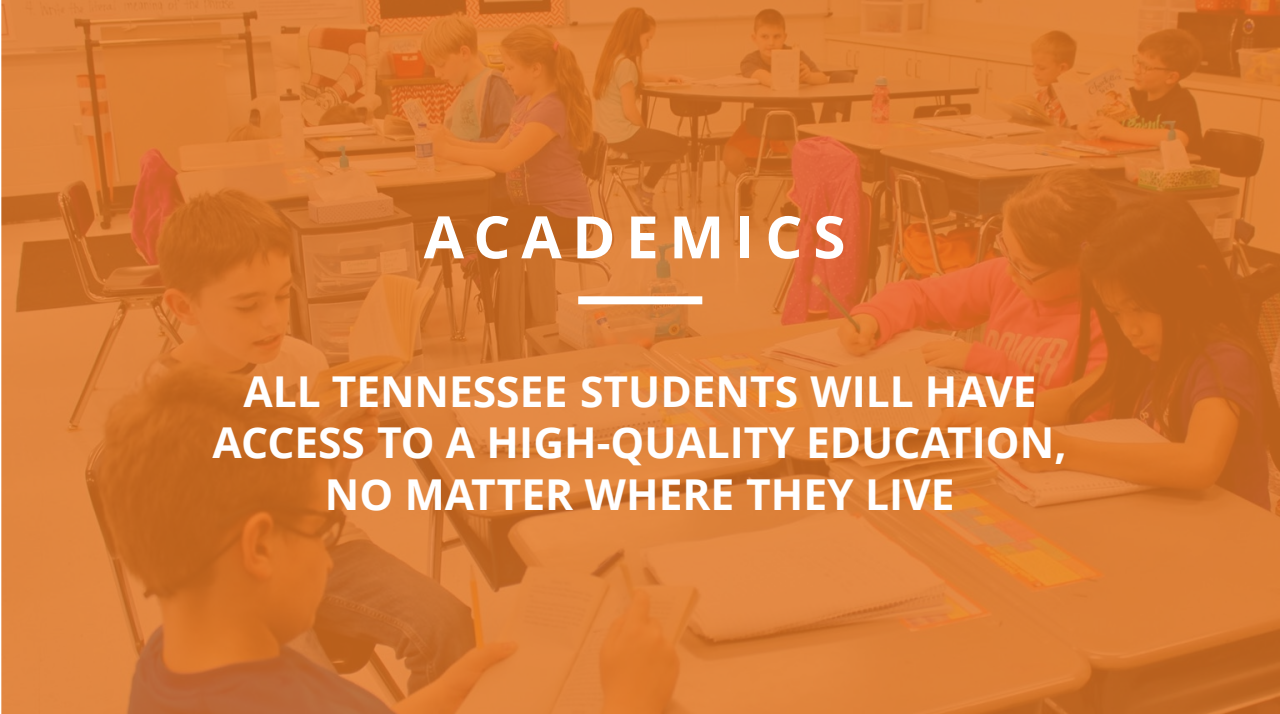
Director of Early Literacy Strategy





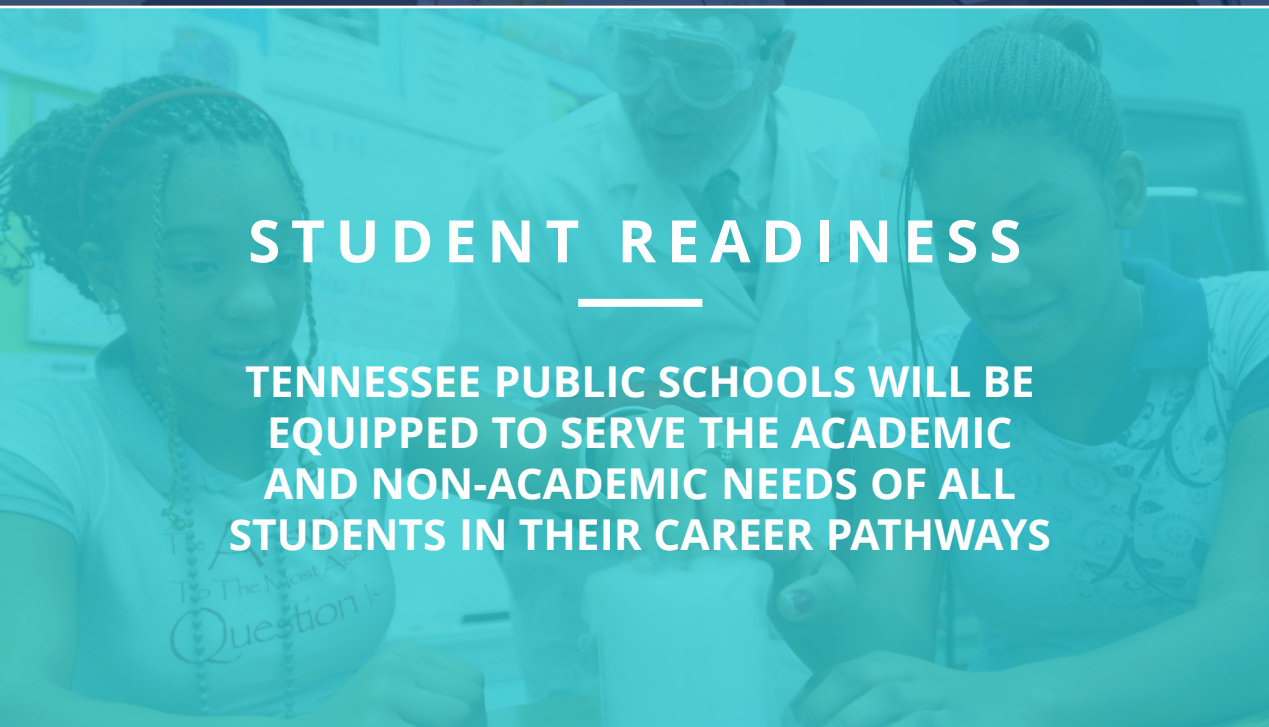
BEST FOR
ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.



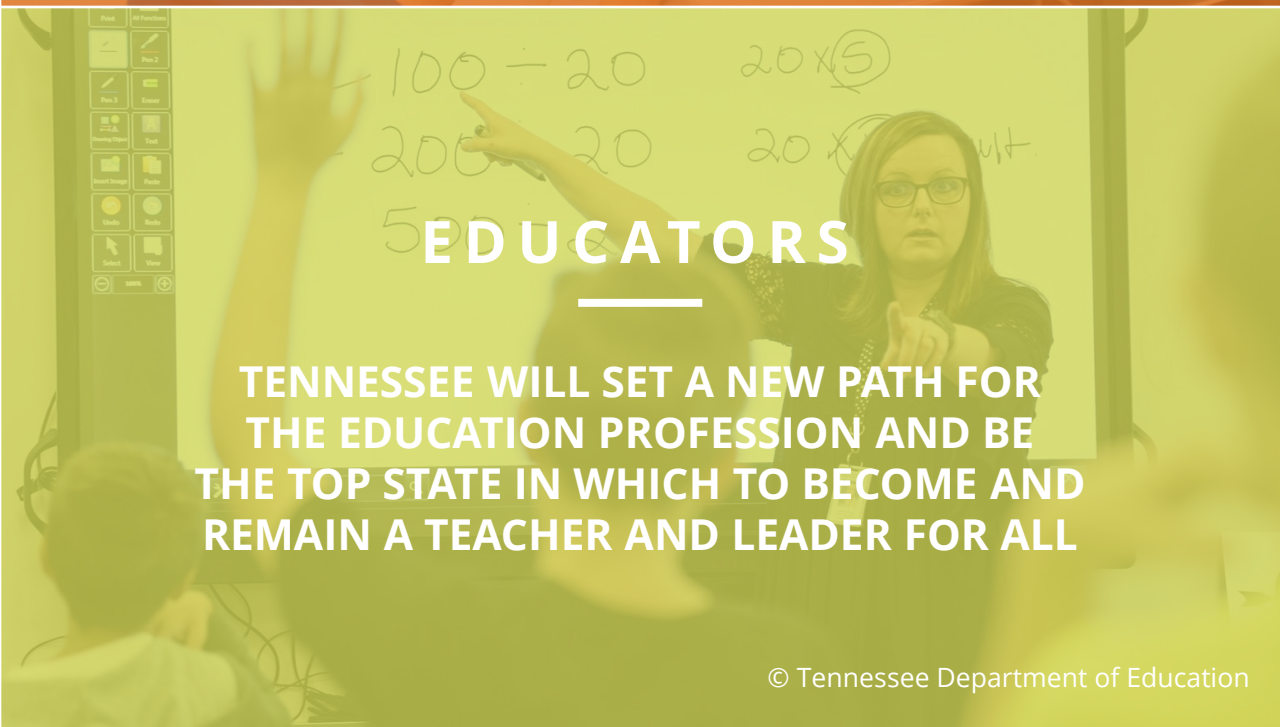
ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE



STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS



EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



“

Family support for early reading is crucial to student success.

- Kristy Brown, TDOE Chief Academic Officer



Agenda

- Why aren't families more engaged?
- What does the data say?
- What family engagement strategies boost literacy gains for students?
- What resources are available to districts to support family engagement?
- What support do districts need to continue this important work?



What barriers do districts face with engaging families?



Research shows that family engagement matters

When schools prioritize authentic family engagement...



trust is established and school climate improves



teachers are more satisfied



teacher-parent relationships improve



parents are more involved with the school



When families are more involved in schools, they...



have better systems of support



have more access to resources



learn how to advocate for their children



are more engaged in their children's learning



When families are more engaged in their children's learning...



parent-child relationships improve



children are more regulated and ready to learn



children get better grades



math and reading scores increase



attendance and graduation rates increase



ParentPowered
creator of Ready4K

Why aren't families more engaged?

"Parents want to be involved in their child's education."
-Sarah Carpenter, Executive Director, The Memphis Lift



Family Engagement Roadblocks

1. Families may not have **adequate resources**.
2. Families do not know **how to support students**.
3. Families do not know **where to go** for help.

What does the data say?

“We know that reading on grade level is foundational to the success of every student, both in and out of the classroom.”

- Governor Bill Lee

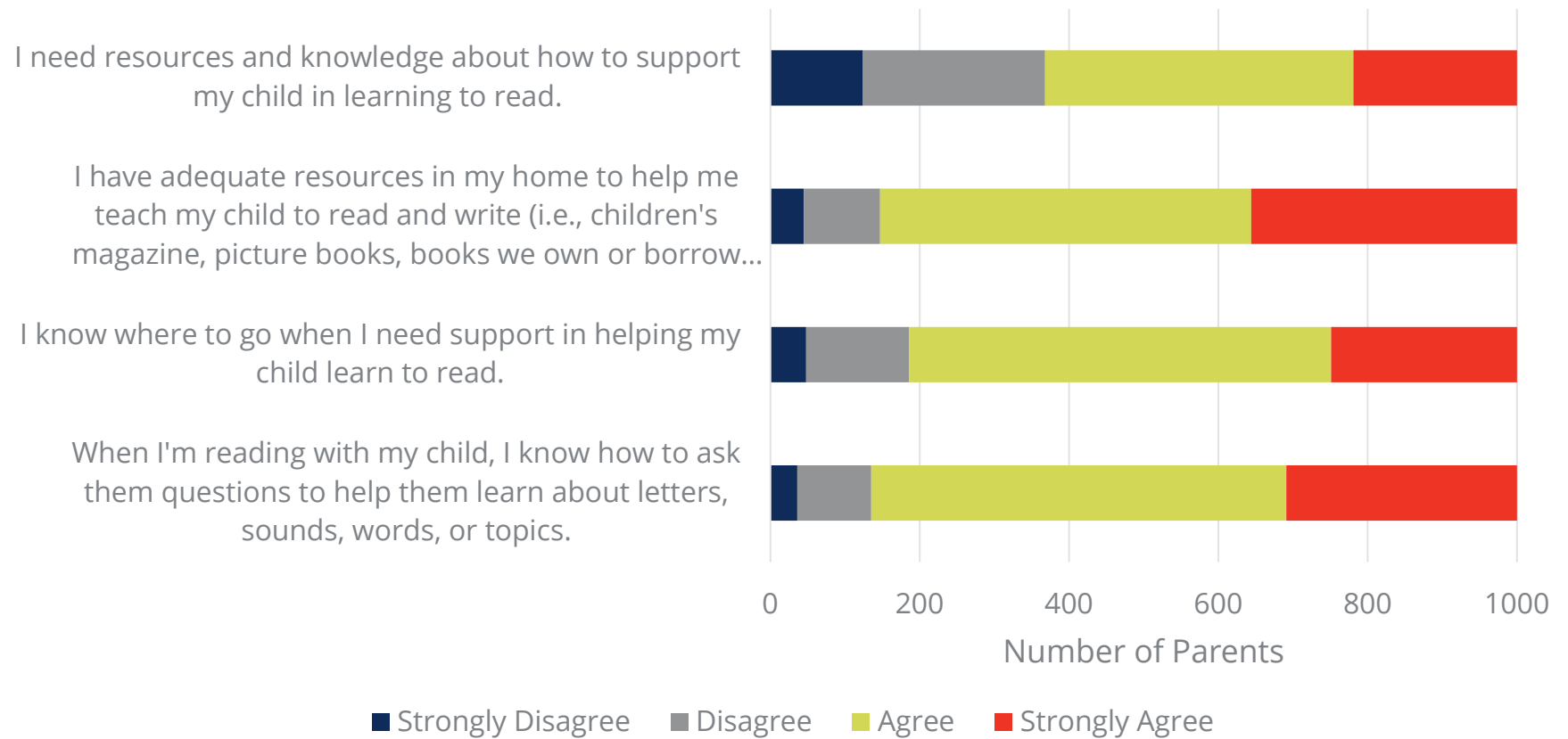


TN Education Research Alliance (TERA) 2022 Family Reading Survey

- TERA is one of the only research-practice partnerships in the country focused on state-level education policy.
- TERA connects Vanderbilt University's Peabody College and the Tennessee Department of Education to expand a knowledge base in key topic areas.
- Through TERA, scholars at Vanderbilt and other leading universities carry out high-quality, practical research that informs state-level policy, impacts the practice in schools and districts across Tennessee, and contributes to national conversations on K-12 education.
- The data shared in this presentation is from TERA's 2022 Family Reading Survey.

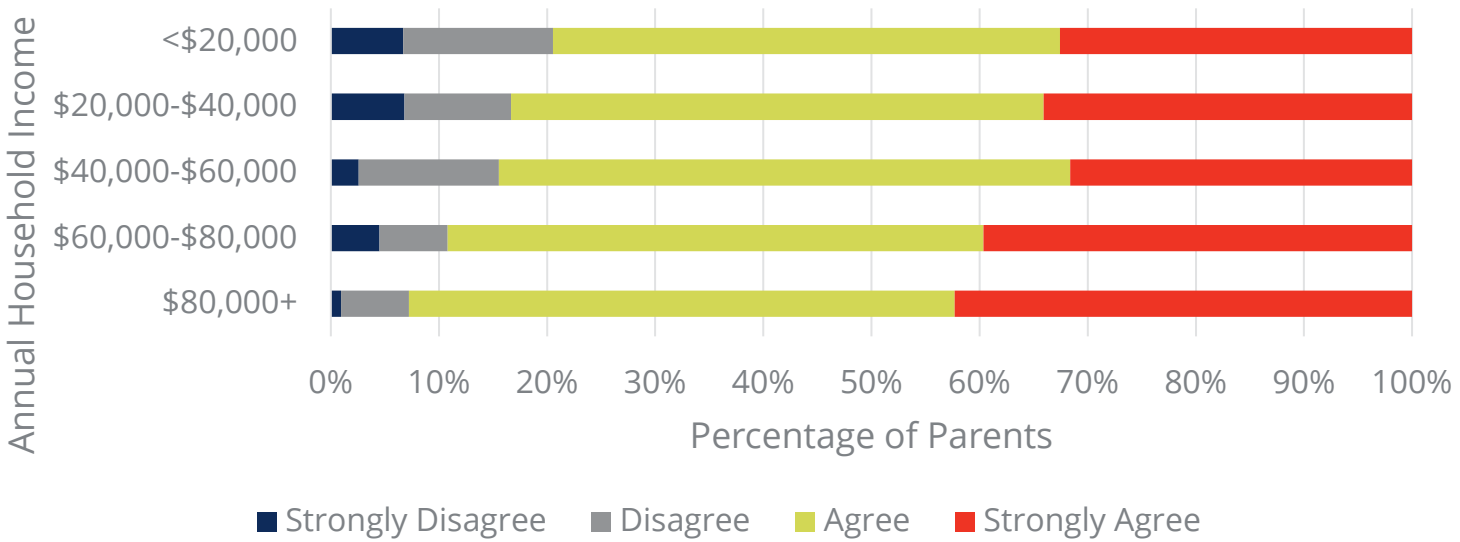
Most caregivers state that they have adequate resources in their home to teach their child to read, but around 60% report that they need more knowledge. *(TERA Family Reading Survey Analysis, 2022)*

Resources and Support for Helping Child Learn to Read



The annual household income impacts literacy resources in the home. The lower an annual household income is, the more likely the caregivers report not having adequate resources to help them teach their children to read and write. (TERA Family Reading Survey Analysis, 2022)

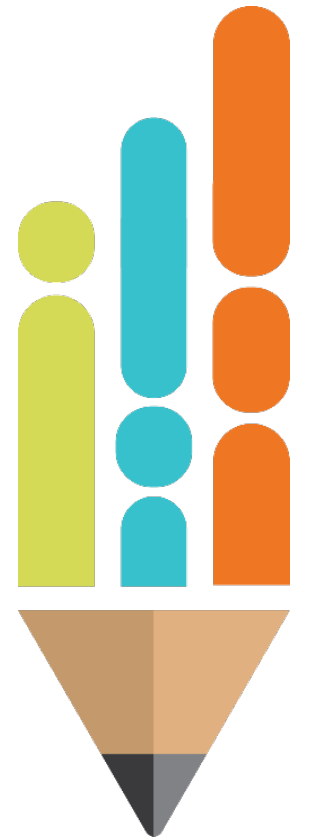
I have adequate resources in my home to help me teach my child to read and write (i.e., children's magazine, picture books, books we own or borrow from the library, writing tools like crayons or pencils).



Additional Caregiver Survey Data

Family Reading Survey Analysis: TN Education Research Alliance (TERA), 2022

- Approximately **90%** of surveyed caregivers reported they **play an important role** in their children's early education.
- Approximately **80%** of families with an income at or below the poverty level report they **have adequate resources** in the home to help teach their child to read and write.
- Approximately **60%** of caregivers reported they **need more knowledge** on ways to support their children's literacy development.
- Approximately **20%** state they **do not know where to go** when they need help supporting their children with learning to read.
- Approximately **15%** of surveyed caregivers reported when reading with their children, they **do not know how to ask questions** to help them learn about letters, sounds, words, or topics.



What family engagement strategies can boost literacy gains for students?

"...students with strong literacy skills have the best opportunities for future success."

-Troy Kilzner, Chester County Director of Schools

Effective Engagement Strategies



- Engage caregivers in their children's learning through **social networks**.
- Empower caregivers with **leadership roles** in the school environment.
- Provide caregivers with **opportunities to engage** with their children's learning at home and at school.



Effective Engagement Strategies

- Social Networks
 - Different than family engagement programs
 - Rather than targeting changes in individual students, this approach aims to make **school-wide changes** through the collective action of caregivers.
- Caregiver Leadership
 - Help caregivers understand new education reforms, create caregiver leaders, and train caregivers on **how to become involved** in efforts to improve their children's schools.
- Caregiver Classes
 - Training to improve the literacy and education level of caregivers, improve parenting skills, and ways to **support** their children's education and learning.



What resources are available to districts to support family engagement?

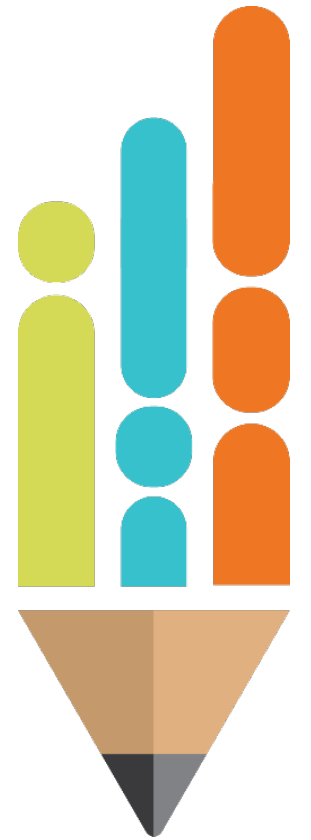
“A child’s literacy journey starts before they enter the classroom, and it’s vital that we come together to support our youngest learners, from cradle to career.”

-James Pond, President, GELF



A **S.I.M.P.L.E** Approach

- **S** – Focus on hearing and playing with **sounds**.
- **I** – Stay **informed** on ways to support your child.
- **M** – **Model** when playing and talking with your child.
- **P** – **Play** games with sounds and words at home.
- **L** – Spend time **listening and learning** with your child.
- **E** – **Engage** in literacy activities that help prepare your child for school.





Best for All Central

- **[Family Reading Resources](#)**
 - Sounds First Approach Activities
 - Modeled Moments Activities
 - Activities for Struggling Readers
 - More resources to come...
 - [Practicing with Sounds Demonstration](#)
- **[Pre-K to Kindergarten Transition Resources for Families](#)**
 - Playing With Sounds at Home
 - Modeling Early Literacy Skills at Home
 - Listening and Learning with your Child
 - [Sounds First Activity at Home](#)





Let's Explore!

S.I.M.P.L.E. Moments at Home
Reading with Riley the Raccoon

S

Sounds First
Approach



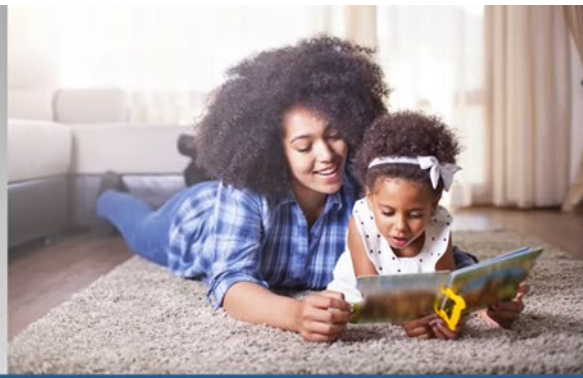
Before children learn to read, they need to know how the sounds in words work. Children need to understand that words are made up of individual speech sounds (phonemes). Learning and understanding individual speech sounds sets the foundation for your child to be successful at reading the grade-level books required throughout their education. Children who cannot hear and/or work with the sounds will have a difficult time connecting sounds to letters when they see them in written words, causing negative effects on their ability to read and write words in future grades.

Families can help children practice these skills and build student confidence by participating in simple activities like the ones provided here. These activities can be done in the car, while you wait for an appointment, or while you are eating dinner. They do not have to take up a big portion of your day, however they will make an enormous impact on your child's learning while also creating fun memories.



Scan to have the
page read aloud.

TN Department of
Education



Sounds First Videos for Families



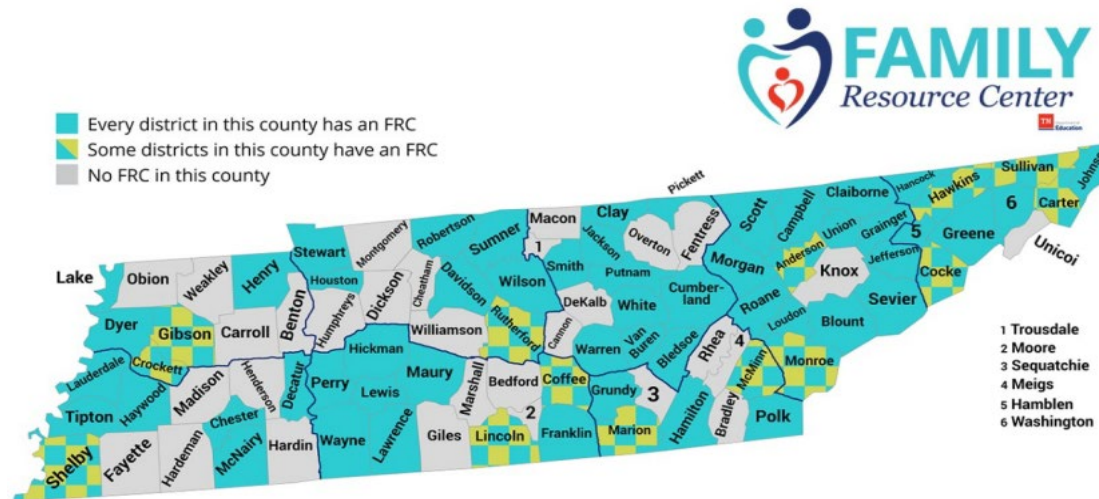
Sounds First Activity at Home



Additional Resources to Support Families

■ Family Resource Centers (FRC)

- FRCs engage schools and community stakeholders to identify barriers hindering the social, personal, physical, and academic wellbeing of students. **Literacy is a focus area.**
- Currently, 102 FRCs serve 79 school districts across 65 counties.
- FRCs reach over 115,000 students and 77,000 families annually.



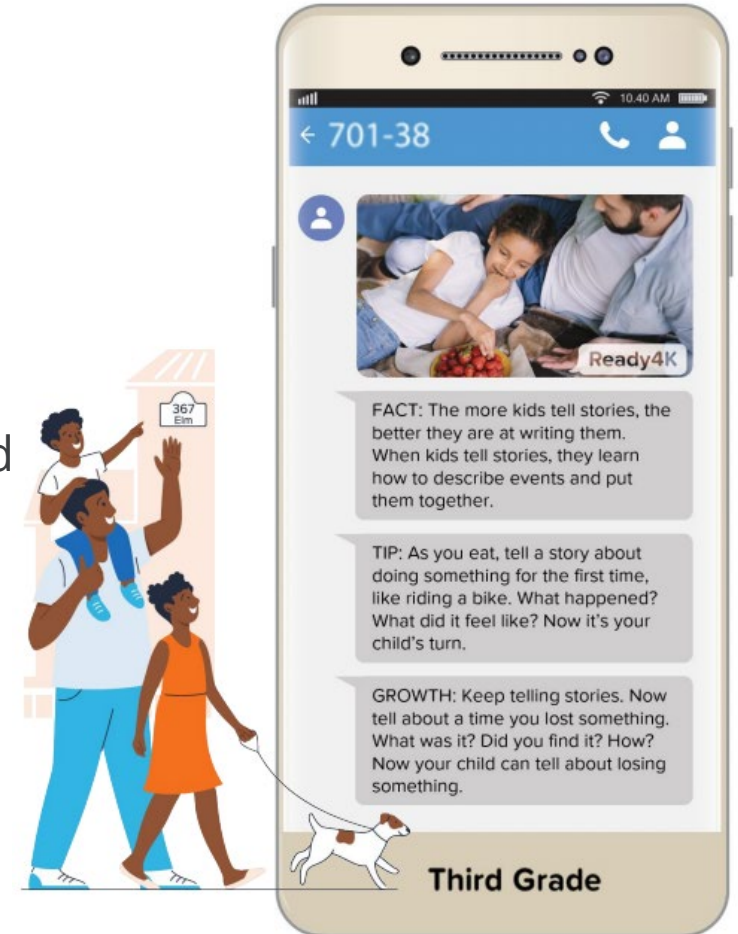
For more information regarding the Family Resource Center (FRC) program in Tennessee, contact Taylor Rayfield, State Coordinator of Family Resource Centers, at Taylor.Rayfield@tn.gov or (615) 483-1248

Family Resources: Ready4K

▪ Ready4K

- Research shows:
 - Text messaging can boost language and literacy scores, increase teacher satisfaction, and help chronic absenteeism (*from Ready4K 2023 Impact Report*).
 - increases family engagement at school and home
 - improves child outcomes including increasing child learning by 2 to 3 months over the course of a school year
- In the 2022-23 school year, over **250,000 TN families** with children in grades Pre-K-5 engaged with Ready4K.
- There is no cost to school districts to participate.

****Districts must be enrolled before parents can participate.***



Family Resources: Decodable Readers and GELF Programs

Decodables

- TDOE, in partnership with the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF), provided an at-home decodable book series for students in K-2.
- The free books included: 7 decodable books, plus 2 age-appropriate, high-quality Scholastic books.
- As of May 2023, **116,446** decodable book sets were distributed to TN families.
- Caregivers report that books at home are the most beneficial resource when helping their children with reading.

GELF

- **Birth to 5 Book Delivery**
From birth to a child's 5th birthday, children are mailed one book per month to foster a love of reading at an early age. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of Tennessee's young children are enrolled in this program in all 95 counties.
- **Book Bus**
Mobile libraries for high-need neighborhoods, providing access to literacy resources. There are 31 book buses, with over 60,000 participants in 45 school districts.
- **Storybook Trails**
This program presents a children's storybook on child-height panels along a short trail with reading tips to promote adult-child interactions through literacy and physical activity. There are 46 storybook trails in 36 counties across the state.

What support do districts need to continue this important work?

"Reading opens the world to a child and offers hope for a bright future."

– Mark White, House Education Administration Committee Chairman

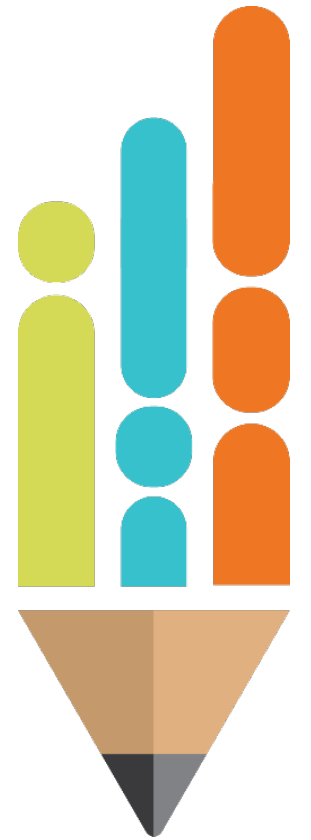
Group Discussion

- How can you promote literacy involvement to families in your community?
- What support do you need to successfully involve families in this process?



Taking Action: 3, 2, 1

- List **three resources** you learned more about today.
- Note **two engagement opportunities** you could provide to share the information or literacy resources with your families.
- Determine **one action step** you will take to begin the work to increase family and caregiver engagement within your school or district.



Family Engagement Resources

- [Pandemic Learning Reveals the Value of High-Quality Instructional Materials to Educator-Family-Student Partnerships](#)
- [A randomized trial examining the effects of parent engagement on early language and literacy: The Getting Ready Intervention](#)
- [Impact of Latino Parent Engagement on Student Academic Achievement: A Pilot Study](#)
- [A Pilot Study of Collective Parent Engagement and Children's Academic Achievement](#)
- [Playing Fair with Latino Parents as Parents, Not Teachers: Beyond Family Literacy as Assisting Homework](#)



Citations

- Wood, L. and Bauman, E. (2017, February). *How Family, School, and Community Engagement Can Improve Student Achievement and Influence School Reform*. Air Institute. <https://campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com/prod/898838/03afb8bb-09b2-11e7-b6d9-22000bd8490f/2014308/d73b9888-04bd-11ea-ac08-0ad72507d897/file/Article%201-%20Final-Report-Family-Engagement-AIR.pdf>
- Jung, JE. (2022, February 7). *Family Reading Survey Analysis*. TN Education Research Alliance.



Title III and English Learners Day Please Share Your Feedback:

You may access the PD by navigating here:

https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/2023fpi_pd_survey_titleiiiday





Thank You!

Questions? We would love to hear from you!

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