

**After
School
Literacy
Tutoring
Program
2008-2009
Report**



Education Alliance of Washoe County

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Struggling Readers Learn to Read

Program Highlights

- ◆ *In its five-year history, 2,528 students have been served in the After School Literacy Tutoring Program.*
- ◆ *2008-09 marked the highest number of schools served, 11, and the largest number of students who attended the program, 647.*
- ◆ *In 2008-09, 75% of participating students were able to read at their grade level after attending tutoring.*
- ◆ *40% of the students grew one to two reading grade levels.*
- ◆ *10% of the students grew two or more reading levels.*
- ◆ *39% of all students scored at the proficient level on the Nevada Criterion Referenced Test/ (CRT).*
- ◆ *To support a child in the After School Literacy Tutoring Program, it only costs \$350.*

Good news – again! Students in the After School Literacy Tutoring Program are learning to read. Continuing a five-year tradition, the grassroots tutoring program's results for 2008-09 show 75% of its students achieved or exceeded their grade-level reading.

The After School Literacy Program, which is part of the *Focus on Literacy Initiative* is now under the direction of the Education Alliance. (The Education Foundation and Education Collaborative, the Washoe County School District's two non-profits, merged in October 2008). The *Focus on Literacy* initiative continues to narrow the gap of illiteracy for elementary students in Washoe County. This year's results are exceptional with a 19% gain over the 2007-08 year in grade level-reading achievement (See Chart page 6). The 2008-2009 year also marked the most schools served, 11, and the highest number of 1st through 6th grade students served, 647 (unduplicated).

Overall, reading growth for the group was .74 grade level with a slightly higher average, .80 for students who attended at least one full session of tutoring. Even for students who did not complete a full session of tu-



Benefits of learning to read pays off in other academic areas including writing, grammar, and comprehension.

School	Average Growth Per Student (Average Expected growth during 1 school year is = .75)	N
Alice Smith	1.00	81
Dodson*	0.28	40
Dunn	1.04	61
Elmcrest	0.94	54
Hunter Lake	1.07	42
Juniper	0.72	45
Lemmon Valley	0.43	80
Palmer	0.80	56
Silver Lake	0.80	75
Stead	0.48	89
Towles	0.67	24
Total	0.74	647

The graph shows the range of growth for students in terms of reading levels. Overall, reading growth was .74. Considering these students were below their grade level in reading, students made excellent progress in gaining reading skills. *Dodson used a different method of student assessment because they are a Reading First school.

toring, the average growth was .35 of a grade level. The expected “normal” Fall to Spring growth for a student is .75. These trends are in line with results from the previous four years (See Chart page 6).

Each student in the program was below grade level at the beginning of the school year. Well over one-third of the students in the program, 40%, grew one to two grade levels, and 10% grew more than two grade levels.

Moreover, of all the students who participated in the program (all reading below grade level), 39% scored at the proficient level (for their *first time*) on the Nevada Criterion Referenced Test (CRT). At each grade level: 34% of the 3rd graders, 46% of the 4th graders, 27% of the 5th graders, and 69% of the 6th graders in the program passed the CRT test.

Eleven elementary schools participated in the After School Literacy Tutoring Program for the 2008-09 school year. These schools all had between 28% and 59% of their student population qualifying for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program (an at-risk indicator). The



Low teacher-student ratios is a key factor in the success of the After School Literacy Tutoring Program.

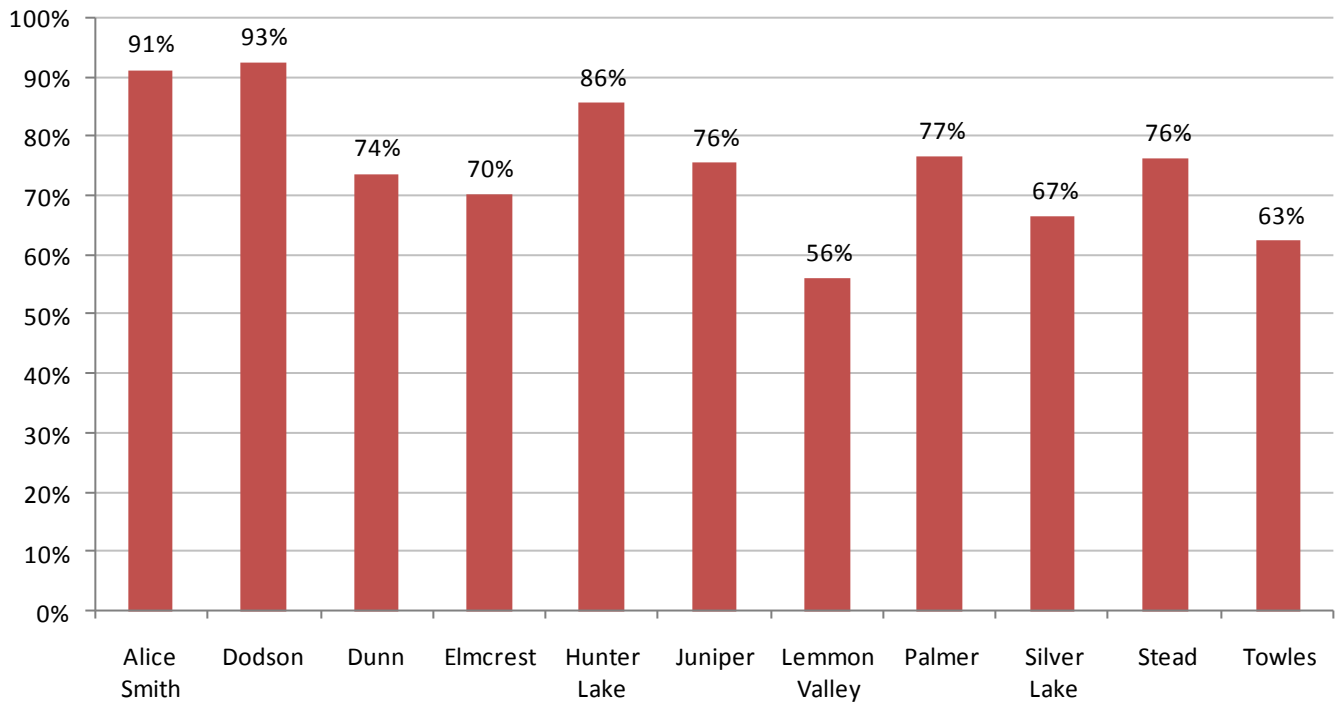
11 schools' minority populations range from 28% to 69% and all have higher than District average English Language Learners.

Students were tutored in small groups with a teacher-student ratio of 1:5 to 1:8. The students in the Tutoring Program were selected because they were not reading at their grade level. Preference was given to students who were "Approaching Proficiency" (26%-50%), as measured by the CRT or by diagnostic reading assessments.

Marked reading achievement for students comes from critical professional development with certified

teachers who serve as tutors. Teachers attend two trainings annually, focused on data collection, and how to structure literacy instruction. Tutors were provided best practice literacy interventions using the "Read To, Read With" program developed by Dr. Donald Bear at the University of Nevada, Reno. Also, one of the area's leading literacy experts Carol Caserta-Henry, trains the tutors and works with the Tutoring Coordinators throughout the year to fine tune the program.

Percent of Tutoring Students Within Each School Reaching Grade Level Reading 2008-2009



The 2008-09 results indicate a 19% gain over the 2007-08 average grade level reading achievement. With 647 in the program for 2008-09, three-quarters, 75%, of the students reached grade level reading after completing tutoring.

Participating Elementary Schools	Number of Students in Program	# of Students reaching grade level reading	% of students reaching grade level reading
Edwin Dodson	40	37	93%
Katherine Dunn	61	45	74%
Elmcrest	54	38	70%
Hunter Lake	42	36	86%
Lena Juniper	45	34	76%
Lemmon Valley	80	45	56%
Virginia Palmer	56	43	77%
Silver Lake	75	50	67%
Alice Smith	81	74	91%
Stead	89	68	76%
Mamie Towles	24	15	63%
Total	647	485	75%



Word games, such as this one being played, are part of helping students learn and increase self-esteem about their reading ability.

What our Students are saying...

When asked if she liked the program, the student replied, "Yes because if you're in this program you are going to learn a lot."

"I understand now what I'm reading. I know what's happening."

"I'm reading better, I can read more books."

"I like writing now because I learned how to use the question in my answer."

"What I like about writing is that I'm spelling better."

"I didn't want to do it (tutoring), now I want to read and write at home."

"Reading is better now than playing."

What our Parents are saying....

"Our son used to get easily discouraged when reading, however since tutoring he works through and re-reads words that are difficult. He is generally more relaxed and seems to enjoy reading and school work much more now."

"Our daughter likes to read now and I'm so amazed what this teacher has accomplished towards my child."

"She loved this tutoring program because she got more one-on-one time."

What our Teachers are saying...

"My students have a happier attitude overall and now ask to read aloud their favorite books or passages."

"For many it is no longer scary or a chore to write or read in class."

About Focus on Literacy

Focus on Literacy initiative is a comprehensive literacy project providing selected Washoe County elementary schools with *books, after school tutoring, technology upgrades, and training for staff* to provide superior literacy learning opportunities for at-risk students. To date \$857,476 has been raised for this effort.

The initiative was originally started by the Education Foundation in 2002. Since then the Education Foundation merged with the Education Collaborative in 2008 to form the Education Alliance.

Focus on Literacy supports elementary schools that fall short of qualifying for federal funding under Title I

and lack the community resources to enhance academic success. These schools have between 28% to 59% of their student population qualifying for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program. Minority, at-risk, and English Language Learner populations at these schools are above the District's averages.

In 2003-04, \$60,000 went to purchase more than 12,000 grade level books for 10 elementary schools. Over the next five years, funds were raised to support after school tutoring for 2,528 youth. Computer labs were upgraded with funds from local foundations and private donors in an effort to support literacy.

Five Year Comparison After School Literacy Tutoring Program Results

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of Schools	9	10	9	9	11
Number of Students	435	534	497	415	647
Percent of students reading <u>at</u> grade level after Program	45%	70%	68%	63%	75%
Percent of students reading <u>above</u> grade level after Program	10%	16%	11%	8%	26%
Percent of 3rd Graders passing CRT after Program	N/A	27%	43%	19%	34%
Percent of 5th Graders passing CRT after Program	N/A	15%	52%	25%	27%
Cost of Program	\$77,505	\$164,040	\$165,000	\$171,168	\$219,763

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Cheryl Moss- 1949-2009

Education lost a true friend when Cheryl Moss passed away on July 10, 2009. Cheryl was one of the founding members of "Partners in Education" and its President. She served on the K-16 Council and later the Education Foundation whose sole mission was the Focus on Literacy Initiative including the After School Literacy Tutoring Program.



All three organizations are now under the Education Alliance.

She was also the driving force behind the Education Foundation nomination for the Truckee Meadows Tomorrow's Silver Star Award for its positive impact on literacy through its After School Literacy Tutoring Program.

Cheryl was instrumental in helping us secure two \$25,000 grants from the AT & T Foundation for the Northern Nevada Writing Project which has done much to advance literacy in our public schools.

Cheryl's leadership and contributions to our community will be deeply missed.

Give The Gift Of Reading

Ways To Give

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, it costs Nevadans more than \$20,000 to house one inmate annually. Did you know most states base prison projections on how many students cannot read by the third grade? We can help stop illiteracy and give children a second chance to learn to read through the Education Alliance's Focus on Literacy Initiative. It costs approximately \$350 for one child to attend one six to eight week session in the After School Literacy Program.

Corporate Sponsorships

- ___ Sponsor a child for one 6 to 8 week session, \$350
- ___ Sponsor one semester of tutoring at 1 school \$9,950
- ___ Sponsor 1 year of tutoring at 1 school \$19,900

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