



# Summer Literacy

Congregations Empowering Young Readers

## Improving Early Childhood Literacy in North Carolina

Community by community, we are building a coalition to expand summer literacy interventions to support more children and families. **Learn more about our approach and ways you can partner with us to make a difference.**



### WHAT IS THE SUMMER LITERACY INITIATIVE?

The Summer Literacy Initiative (SLI) is a public-private partnership between rural faith communities and public school districts. A four-to-six-week summer program, SLI is faith-placed, leveraging the convening and connection power of congregations, with student instruction from certified public school teachers using evidence-based Science of Reading practices, required by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

## Initiative Impact

### 2024 Highlights



# 560

students



# 22

rural faith communities

- 30% rising first-graders
- 43% rising second-graders
- 27% rising third-graders



### Total Impact



# 2,491

children served

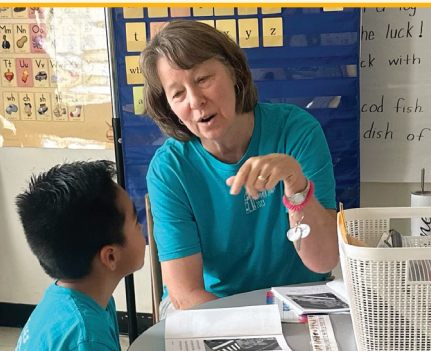


# 3+

months reading gain (average) during SLI

### Additional Outcomes

- » **Caregivers:** Increased confidence in supporting their reader
- » **Students:** Increased belief in themselves
- » SLI named a “Promising Practice” by the NC Department of Public Instruction (2024)



“Programs like this are rare. Oftentimes we talk about collaboration, but this is an example of one that’s working very well. The effectiveness is what makes me committed to this program. It’s making a difference in the lives of these children.”

— DR. STAN WINBORNE, SUPERINTENDENT, GRANVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Photo: Oxford United Methodist Church, Granville County



## WHERE WE SERVE

Initiated in one rural faith community in 2013, the Summer Literacy Initiative has grown intentionally, with engaged and ready congregations. The objective of growth has been careful attention to building the model, testing its efficacy and making sure that communities have the capacity and support to implement the model with fidelity. This growth has been effective, with SLI demonstrating statistically significant reading gains for participants every year.

## WHERE WE'RE HEADED

Our goal is to serve all 100 counties, with expansion priority in rural counties designated as Tier 1 and 2 in the North Carolina Department of Commerce ranking of economic distress. As we grow, we will maintain consistent and sustainable reading growth for the students we already serve.



# The Summer Literacy Initiative needs you.



### Community partners



SLI is a community-wide partnership. Community partners at every SLI site sponsor family engagement meals, help with student transportation, coordinate enrichment opportunities such as field trips or site visits, or provide financial support that enhances the program.

### Philanthropic partners



Funding partners help achieve our collective goal of ensuring all NC third graders are reading at grade level. The SLI collaboration model is flexible based on the scope, scale and interest of your organization.

### State partners



SLI is seeking to build expansion support with the State of North Carolina and other state-level partners. Strong readers are more ready for the workforce, which strengthens our communities and businesses across North Carolina. Together we can ensure that all students across the state have access to high-quality summer literacy instruction that fosters their confidence and capacity to read on grade level.

## Learn more and connect with SLI

[www.dukeendowment.org/project-details/summer-literacy-initiative](http://www.dukeendowment.org/project-details/summer-literacy-initiative)  
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