



# READ USA COLLABORATION GUIDE

Collaboration is in our DNA.



# READ USA Community Partnerships

READ USA is committed to the research-proven collective impact approach to achieving grade-level reading proficiency in Duval County and beyond through robust partnerships across all sectors. READ USA leadership is fully committed to these collaborative efforts and has played a foundational role in many of them. Together, in partnership, we can move the needle faster and farther on closing the literacy gap and have a positive, long-term collective impact on our community.

## Grade-Level Reading Campaign

READ USA is proud to be foundational to the creation and launch of READ JAX, Duval County's local Grade-Level Reading Campaign that is focused on closing the literacy gap. READ USA serves as the vehicle to deliver innovative programming, including Book Choice and Ownership, Literacy Tutoring, Multicultural Literacy programming, and Literacy Professional Development for Educators to students and teachers in our community.

READ USA also collaborates with LIFT JAX to close the literacy gap in the Out East area of Jacksonville. Specifically, we work closely with LIFT JAX to provide literacy opportunities for students at the John Love Early Learning Center and Long Branch Elementary.

## 1,000 by 2025 Initiative

READ USA directly contributes to building a diverse teacher pipeline by recruiting, hiring, training, and paying teen tutors to deliver one-to-one literacy instruction elementary students in need of literacy support. We are proud to stand hand-in-hand with the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) in its effort to have 1,000 men of color in local classrooms by 2025.

## READ USA Literacy Tutoring

READ USA's Literacy Tutoring program recruits, hires, trains, and pays teenagers – a majority of whom are high school-aged DCPS students and come from under-resourced communities – to delivery literacy tutoring to elementary school students. During tutoring sessions, elementary students receive intensive one-to-one tutoring that utilizes proven, evidenced-based literacy curriculum adapted for a one-to-one instructional context. Tutor coordinators and teachers provide guidance to the tutors during the program, and READ USA removes a common barrier to access by providing transportation to and from the work site for tutors, with funding support from Kids Hope Alliance. More than half of READ USA's hired tutors utilize this service to attend tutoring, which is also the first introduction to the workforce for many of the teen tutors. In addition to the reading gains made by elementary school students, the teen tutors also expand their reading abilities while gaining valuable workforce development skills that transfer to any career path they choose. Tutors are paid \$15/hour for training and tutoring, and potential tutors can visit [www.readusainc.com/apply](http://www.readusainc.com/apply) to apply for the program.



## READ USA Multicultural Literacy and Read Alouds

Providing children with books featuring people who look like them, and stories that reflect their own culture and race, contributes to their development of an appreciation of self. When children interact with a story or book, they may identify with the main character, the minor characters, the main problem, or other features of the story. Through these connections, books serve to transmit cultural and moral values to children.

The children's books READ USA chooses for our Multicultural Literacy Project are authentic to the narratives, storytellers, and cultures which they represent. The characters and stories represent a variety of underrepresented and diverse people and cultures.

READ USA has partnered with numerous diverse local individuals and organizations to create Read Alouds, featuring community leaders from Jacksonville University, Rotaract Club of Jacksonville's Beaches, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, and others. These individuals volunteered their time to share their favorite children's books through video.

**Access our Multicultural Literacy programming and Read Alouds here:**



## Become a READ USA Volunteer

Volunteers are essential to helping READ USA implement its programming and in return experience a life-changing opportunity for both the volunteer and the students we serve. Our volunteers support our annual Book Fairs and other book events throughout the year.

**Become a READ USA volunteer here:**



## Khan Academy Literacy Resources

Khan Academy provides a variety of resources to improve literacy skills. Take these easy steps to create a FREE account:

- » Visit [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
- » Click "Sign Up" and create a free account.
  - Plus, you can add children from ages two and up!
- » Click "Courses" to access the Reading & Language Arts activities – and others if interested!
- » You can receive updates on the parent dashboard of your child's success.
- » Remember to celebrate the successes!



## Improving Mental Wellness in Children

READ USA is committed to the research-proven collective impact approach to achieving grade-level reading proficiency in Duval County and beyond through robust partnerships across all sectors. READ USA leadership is fully committed to these collaborative efforts and has played a foundational role in many of them. Together, in partnership, we can move the needle faster and farther on closing the literacy gap and have a positive, long-term collective impact on our community.

1 in 5 children is living with a significant mental illness

50% of all lifetime mental illnesses start by age 14

The younger the child, the less they understand emotions and have fewer ways to communicate them. It is important to watch for significant changes in their day-to-day activities or routine, including differences in:

- Appetite (increase or decrease)
- Sleep, energy level, fatigue
- Observable emotions and behavior (crying, irritability, acting more "cranky", yelling, anger, aggression, tantrums)
- Social interaction (avoid/withdraw from friends or family)
- Bodily symptoms (headaches, upset stomach, shortness of breath)
- Performance in school or extracurricular activities

### How to start conversations

Parents have an essential role in fostering open communication and educating their children about mental health. In partnership with *On Our Sleeves*, Wolfson Children's provides free, easy-to-use educational tools to boost mental well-being, manage mental health conditions and prevent crisis in youth.

- Use the *On Our Sleeves* conversation starters to check in regularly and ask questions.
- Encourage the use of coping skills and practice them together to help your child remain calm. Going for a walk together, practicing breathing exercises, or listening to calming music are a few examples.
- Look for changes in mood or behavior that might be a warning sign something is wrong.
- Be aware of transitions at home that might cause stress. Provide structure and routine as much as possible.
- Talk with your doctor about your concerns related to your child's mental health

Go to [WolfsonChildrens.com/OnOurSleeves](http://WolfsonChildrens.com/OnOurSleeves) to sign up for our newsletter for up-to-date information and resources.



If you need support, call our 24/7 Kids & Teens Helpline at 904.202.7900 or text LIFE to 741741. If there is an immediate safety concern, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.



Use this QR code to access tools and resources



Reading Classes



Computer Classes



Math Classes



GED Prep

## FREE ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Call us today 904-238-9000

OR

Visit our website [literacyallnefl.org/learn-with-us](http://literacyallnefl.org/learn-with-us)

Where opportunities take flight

40 East Adams St  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Literacy Alliance  
of Northeast Florida