



Third grade reading is a critical benchmark for students. **It's when they make the leap from learning to read, to reading to learn.** If this milestone isn't met, kids can quickly fall behind in other subjects. This priority goal focuses on making sure all students are reading at grade level by the end of third grade, with a specific focus on students furthest from educational justice.

# Third Grade Reading



Here's what we're doing to make sure all Seattle Public School students are reading at grade level by the end of third grade

## 1 Engaging families and community partners

We know students are most successful when they are supported at school, in our community, and at home. We want to improve our engagement practices with families and strengthen our work with community-based organizations to best support students' love of reading and access to books.

## 2 Supporting educators

Educators need collaboration time, data, support, tools and professional development to make sure they can help every student learn to read by the end of third grade.

## 3 Using data to collaborate

Our educators need data to inform instruction, and we are committed to strengthening the quality of student data available for teachers to use in collaboration and improvement cycles with their colleagues.

## 4 Providing access to preschool

Preparing students to be successful readers by the end of third grade starts in preschool. We are developing plans to expand access to high-quality and equitable preschool opportunities within Seattle Public Schools.

## WORKING TOWARD OUR GOAL

To help meet our goal of all third graders being strong readers, Seattle Public Schools is focusing efforts on reaching students furthest away from educational justice, beginning with African American boys.



### Work Completed so far

- **Launched Seattle Super Readers** in 2019 and sent home more than 30,000 books to our students in 13 priority schools
- **Professional development for educators** in our 13 priority schools around literacy, writing and the science of reading, with a racial equity lens
- **We took inventory of existing space** for preschool, looking for capacity to expand early learning opportunities
- **Shift to focus on remote learning needs** in spring 2020, getting laptops, wifi hotspots and books to students, with a focus on those furthest from educational justice

### How we measure progress

- + Proficiency rates on the Smarter Balanced Assessments for third grade reading over the next five years
- = Continued hours of professional development
- + Addition of preschool opportunities at our schools

