



..... Children's Trust of Alachua County
 and Alachua Board of County Commissioners

BUILDING COMMUNITY LITERACY TOGETHER

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CHILDREN'S TRUST
 OF ALACHUA COUNTY



..... Alachua County

Alachua County Reads is a collective impact project for community-based providers using expert tools and activities to support the literacy education directed by the Alachua County Public Schools.

Guided by recommendations from the Alachua County Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment, this effort recognizes *literacy as essential to strengthen community infrastructure for economic development, health determinants, and improve quality of life.*

Literacy is the ability to read and write at a level that allows full participation in one's community and work.

.....
Literacy Collaborative

Alachua County Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment (ACCLNA)

3 core priority areas

- ***Enhanced Awareness and Communication*** - Developing unified messaging strategies that position literacy as fundamental economic infrastructure, emphasizing collective community benefit rather than targeted intervention.
- ***Focused Support*** - Directing resources toward demonstrably effective programs both in-school and out-of-school, with particular attention to populations identified as having the highest need.
- ***Expanded Professional Learning*** - Building sustainable local capacity through evidence-based training for educators, community organization staff, and volunteers.

Since October 2025, **Alachua County Reads** has been active in two collaborative paths: **Programming** with The Literacy Catalyst project, led by the PEAK Literacy partnership with the County, and **Coordination** led through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence with the Children's Trust.

While schools continue as the primary driver of community-wide literacy, community organizations are now being engaged to provide additional out-of-school literacy programs:

Literacy Support Programs

increase literacy access, provide referrals, and improve at-home engagement

Literacy Skill-Building Programs

direct engagement focused on literacy improvement and grade-level reading achievement

Alachua County Reads is focused on *building necessary infrastructure* as identified by the ACCLNA to increase community awareness, improve coordination between existing literacy resources, and support expanded program implementation.

Next steps:

Building a virtual Literacy Hub with resources supporting learners from newborns to adults, integrated with 211, FindHelp.com, and clear language on an easy-to-navigate, mobile friendly site: alachuacountyreads.org

Recruiting a community advisory board who can champion the cause and keep us relevant and evolving



Identifying and training new partners to engage in the work across the county as support and skill-building sites, with capacity-building resources and funds to make them sustainable and replicable



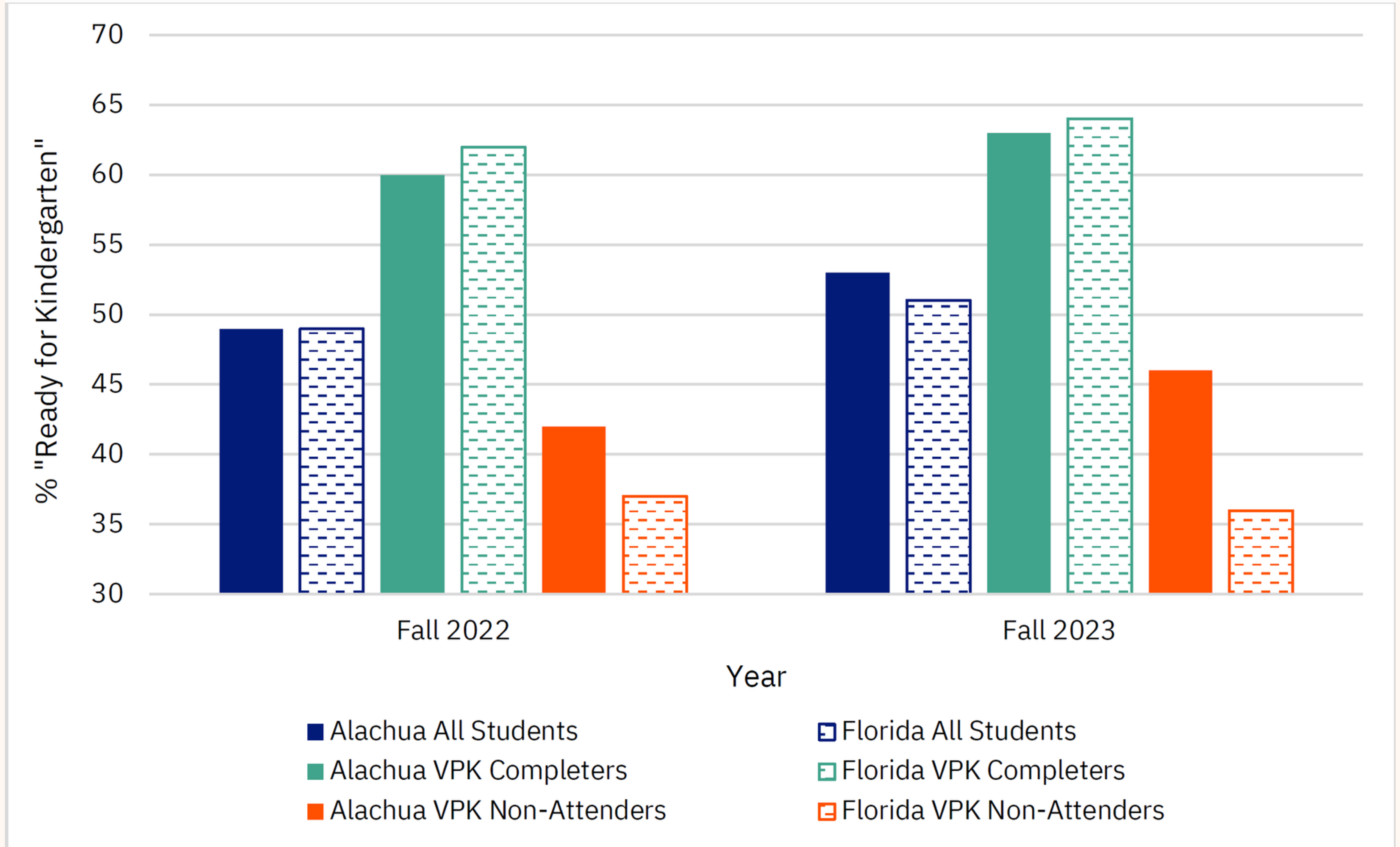
The goal of Alachua County Reads is literacy for all to participate in work and life.

The intersectionality between literacy and social determinants like employment, health, housing stability, intergenerational challenges, community connections, and food security is well researched. The ACCLNA highlights literacy as a critical component of economic development and community infrastructure. Creating approaches in both schools and the broader community is the recommended path to closing the gap.

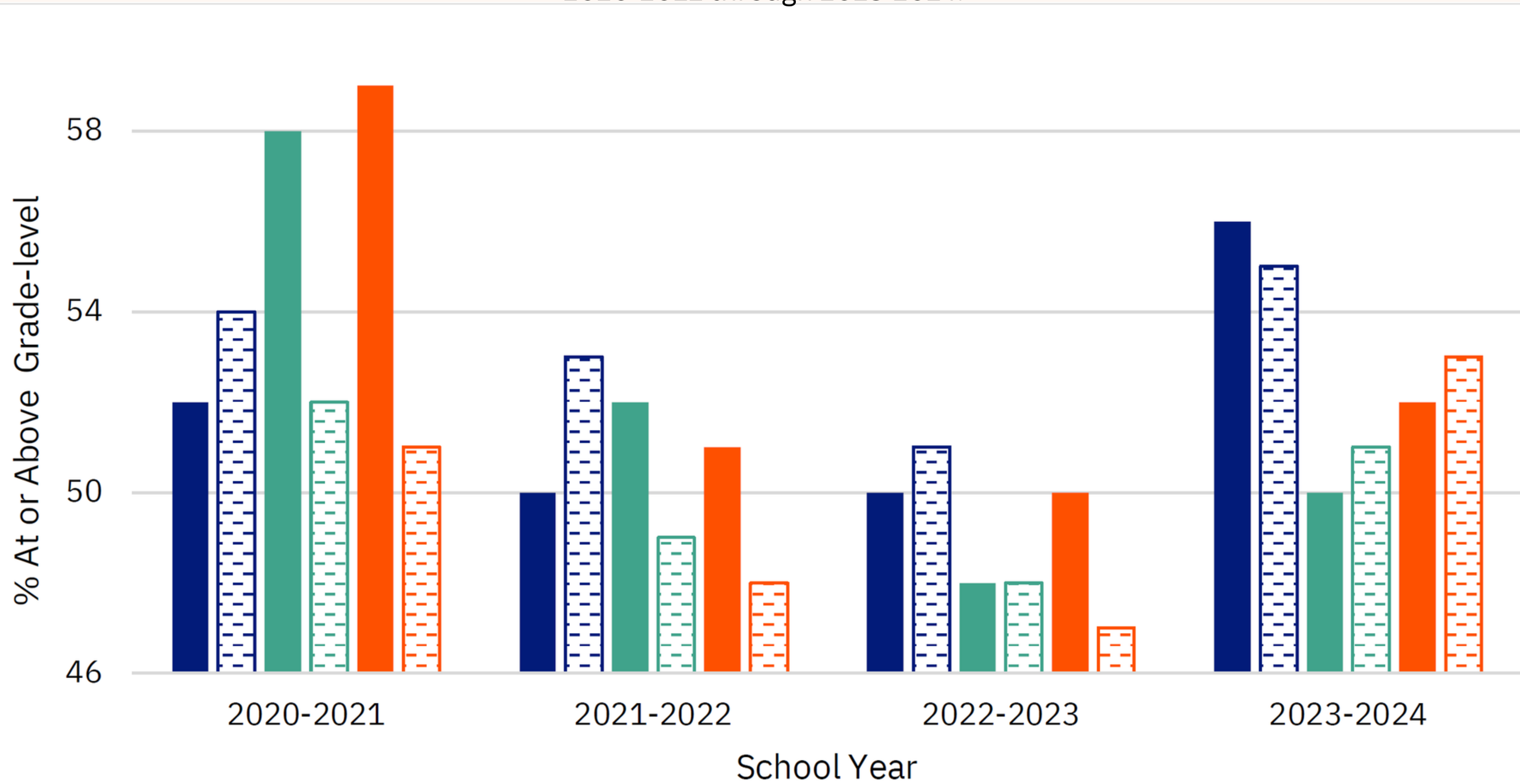
The project will require partners across the social services, healthcare, business, and education sectors to volunteer, invest, engage and champion the school and community-based solutions, interventions, and initiatives it develops.



Percent of Students "Ready for Kindergarten" Based on FAST Scores at Kindergarten Entry, including by VPK, Alachua County, Fall 2022 and Fall 2023

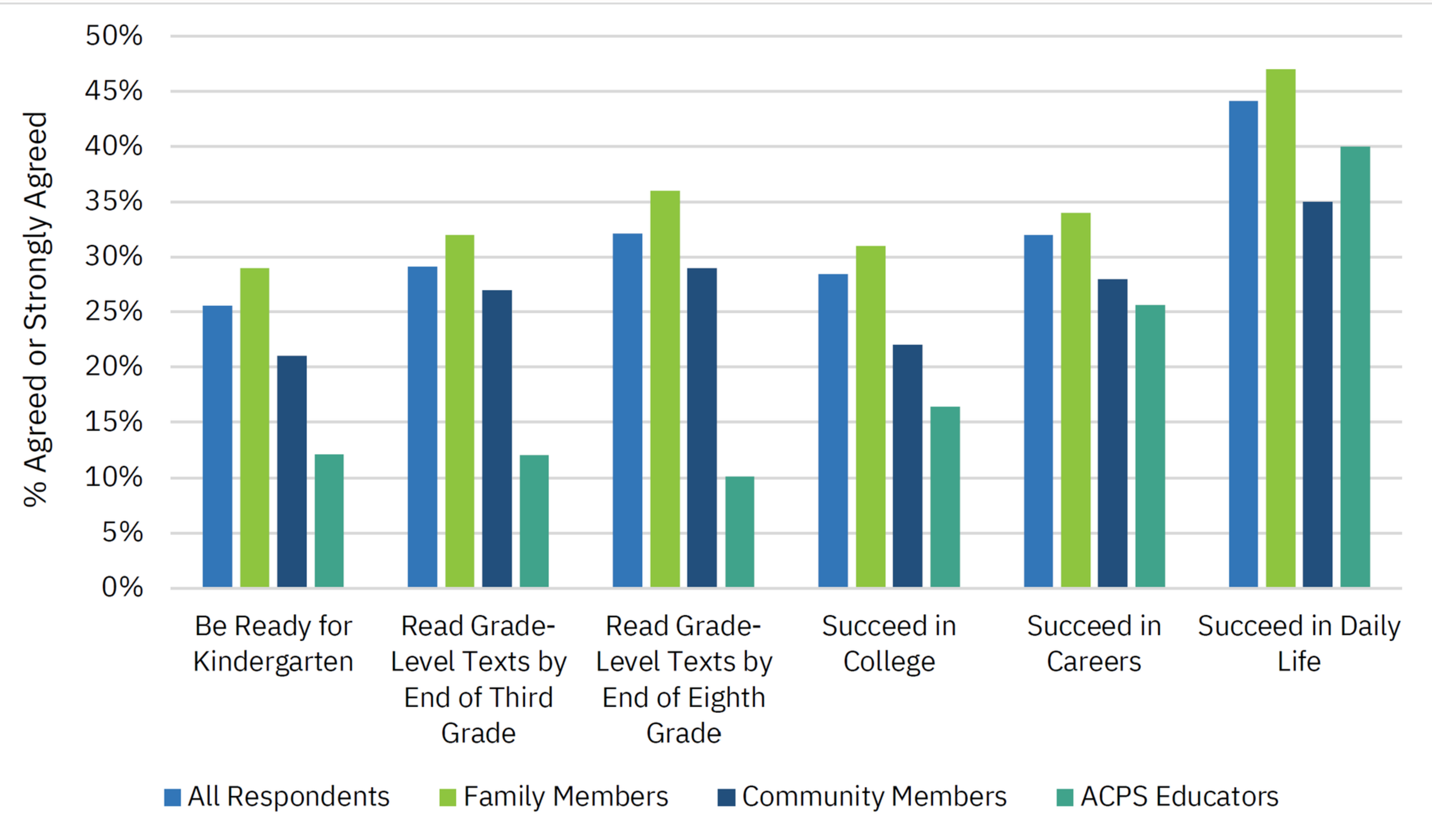


Percent of Students At or Above Grade Level Reading Proficiency Rates (score 3 or higher), Alachua and Florida, 2020-2021 through 2023-2024.

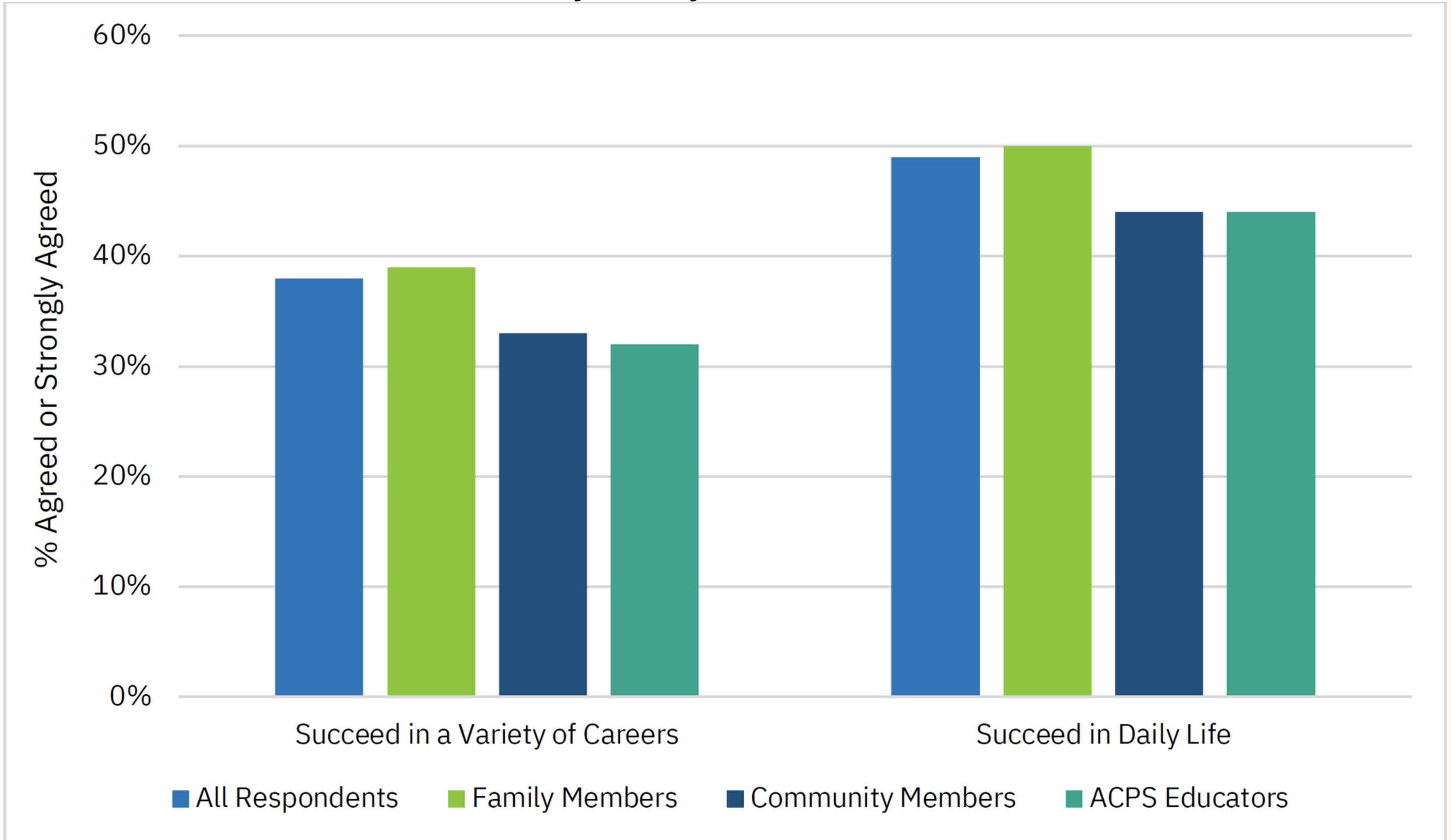


- Alachua 3rd Grade Students
- Alachua 8th Grade Students
- Alachua 10th Grade Students
- Florida 3rd Grade Students
- Florida 8th Grade Students
- Florida 10th Grade Students

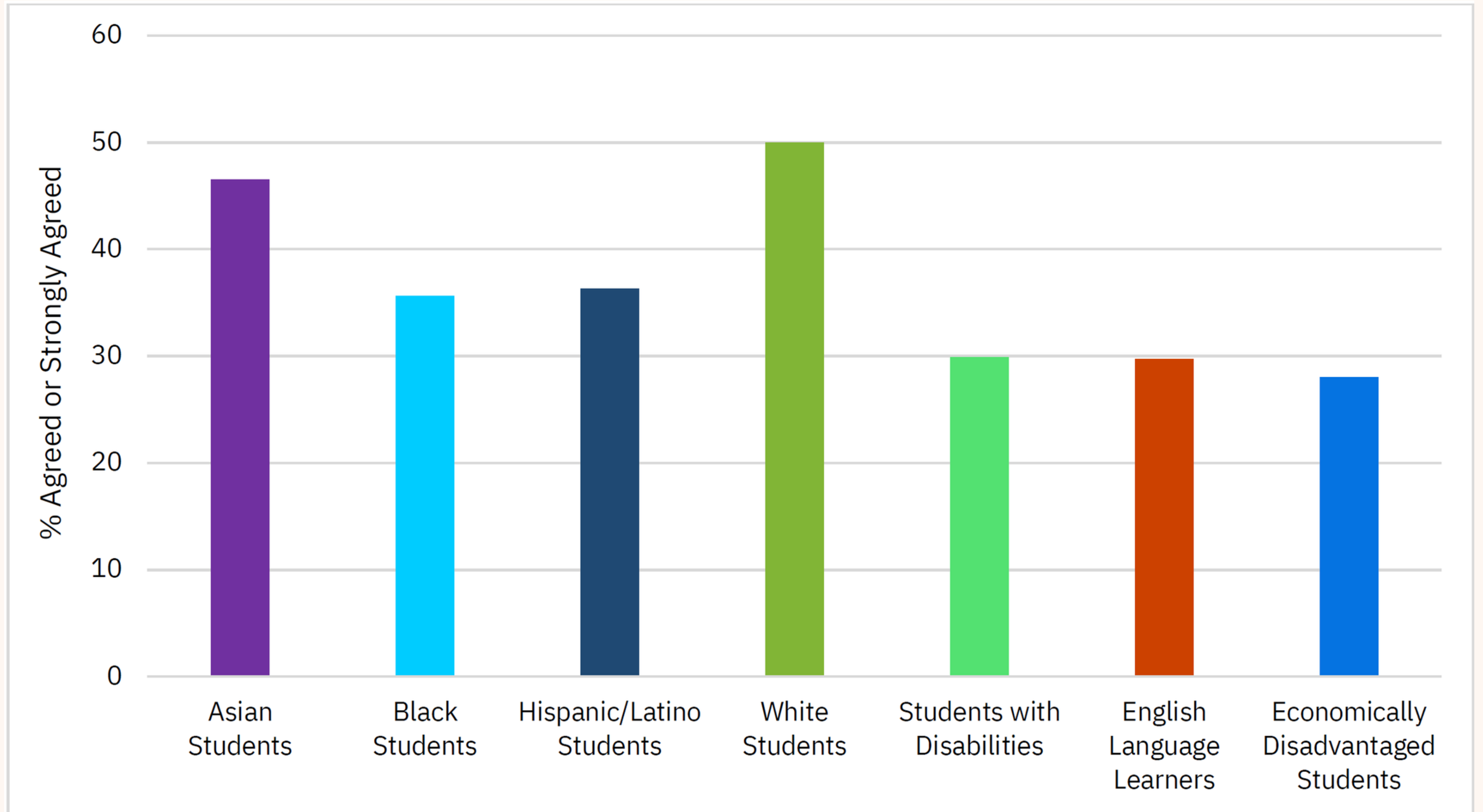
Percent of Respondents (1,334), by Respondent Type, Who “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” About Children and Youth Having Necessary Literacy Skills To....



Percent of Respondents (1239), by Respondent Type, Who “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” About Adults Having Necessary Literacy Skills To.....



Percent of ACPS Educators (188) Who “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that Students in Alachua County Have Access to Education that Helps Them Gain Literacy Skills, by Student Race/Ethnicity, Disability Status, and English Learner Status



The Literacy Catalyst Initiative *PEAK Literacy*





Great Leaps has worked to help students with a wide variety of challenges, including:

- Dyslexia
- ADHD
- Mild Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Choppy readers
- Robot readers
- English language learners who are conversant in English

ELIMINATING DISPARITIES. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES. UNLOCKING FUTURES.

Peak Literacy provides one to one tutoring to help kids achieve grade-level reading skills so that they have the tools they need to succeed.

[Click Here to Learn About Our Reading Program and How You Can Help!](#)

In an Afterschool Program

At Home

During School

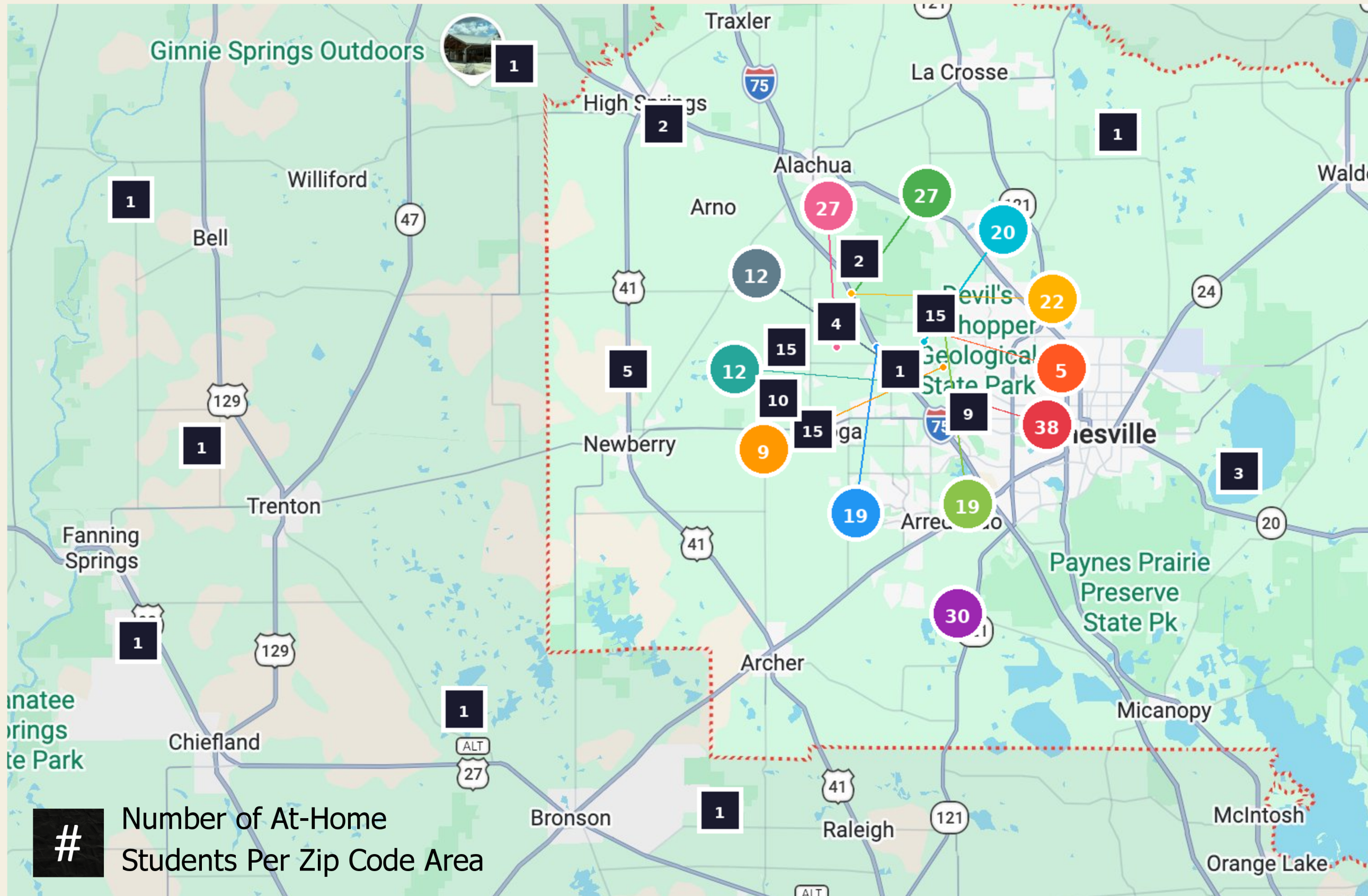


Virtual



In-Person

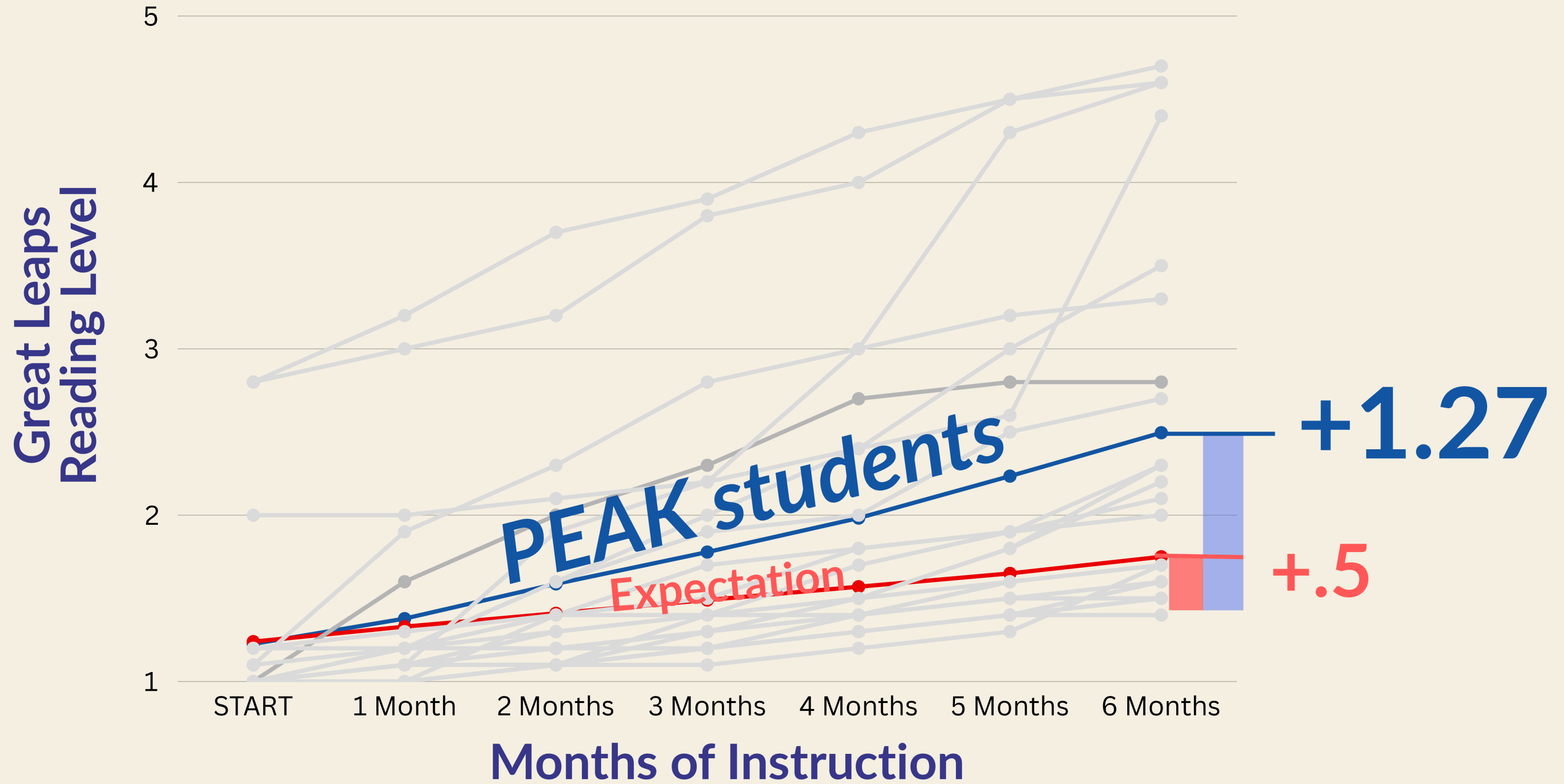
PEAK PROGRAM SITES & STUDENTS



Program Sites

- 38** Aces in Motion
- 12** AMI Kids
- 12** Caring and Sharing
- 9** Elite Arts
- 5** Gainesville Empowerment Zone
- 27** Girls Place
- 20** Kids Count
- 19** Oakview
- 22** Pineridge Cool Kids
- 19** Sweetwater Neighborhood
- 27** Westwood Middle
- 30** Willie Mae Stokes

RESULTS



*Data reflects 24 students who received six months of the Great Leaps Reading intervention with fidelity from PEAK Literacy

Oniel Garcia's Records ?

Student Summary ▼

Reading ▼



◀ Previous

Next ▶

Instructional Grade Level ●

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

GRADE LEVEL GROWTH
4.4 years

READING RATE
242.2%

AVG SESSIONS PER WEEK
2

LENGTH IN PROGRAM

2.83
years

GOALS ACHIEVED

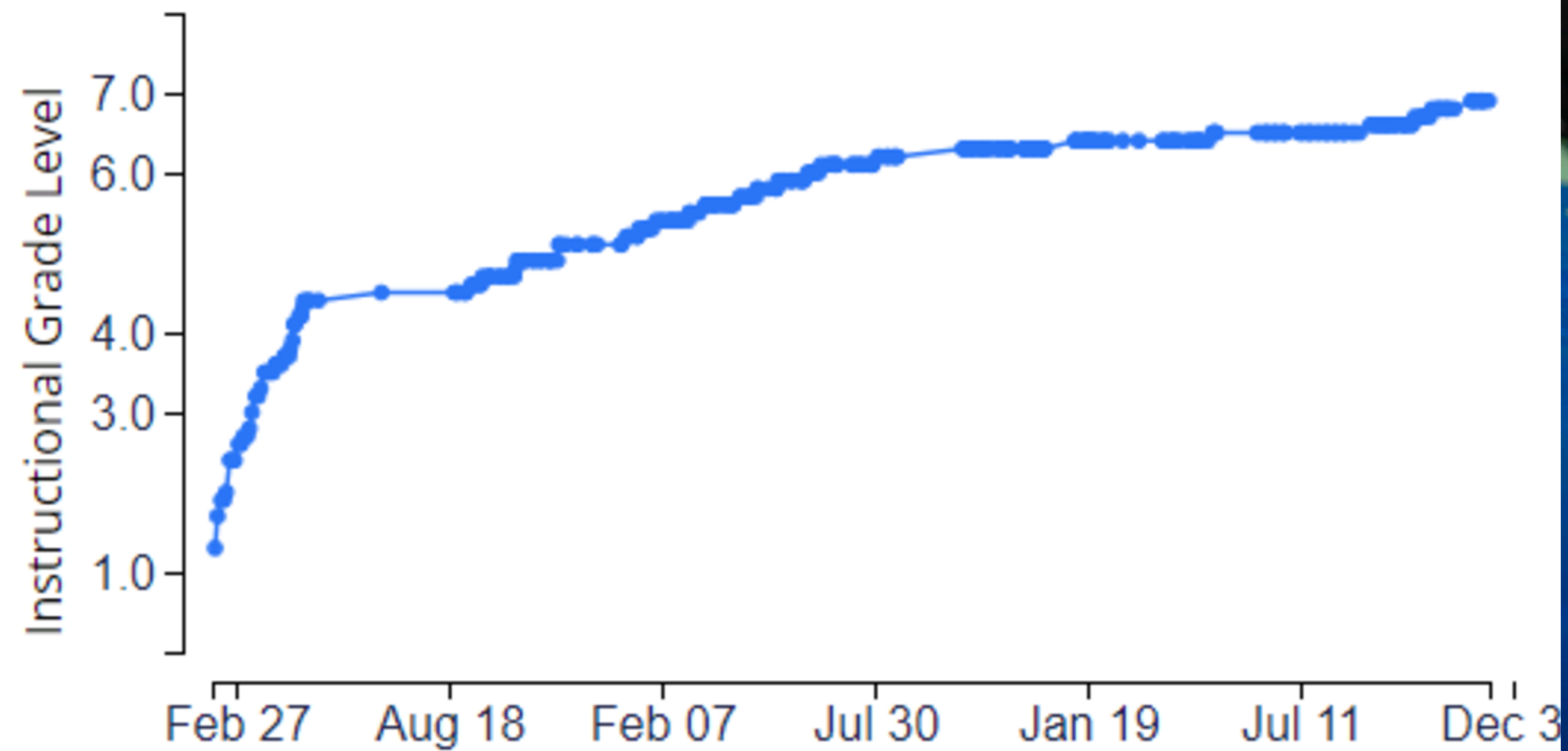
ABC Alphabet 0

🔊 Phonics 89

💬 Phrases 66

📖 Stories 67

Grade Level Growth



It opened my eyes to the need and the difference a small amount of time each day can impact a lifetime. It is a very rewarding experience!



I realize how important it is to **educate underprivileged youth** as it is so easy to **overlook basic necessities such as literacy**. The youth need our support and educating them through free programs such as GNV Bridge is a great way to help them achieve long term goals.

IMPACT.

Through coaching, I have seen that there are **numerous reasons why an underprivileged child may fall behind**. I have noticed that just being there for them everyday improves **their skills** because they need the support that it provides.



Through being a Reading Coach, I'm able to witness the adversity underprivileged youth face. **I became aware of the learning gap between underprivileged youth and privileged youth**, and am able to see how much can be done in support.



How We Can Work Together

Support Alachua County Reads



Volunteer with PEAK: Receive training & support to change the lives of students with just 1hr/week
Learn about Literacy: an informed community is a strong one

Consider joining our **advisory council** and becoming a Literacy Champion



Spread the Word




Connect us with potential partners, donors, and allies.
Send us your thoughts at alachuacountyreads@gmail.com

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**Tell Me
More**



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Questions?



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Thank You



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Literacy Collaborative

