



Item:

Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment Report and Recommendation Overview (Mia Jones)

Requested Action:

The Board is asked to approve the staff to contract with a consultant to assist in the convening of literacy partners and the development of Alachua Reads.

Background:

In May 2023 the Children's Trust board had a joint meeting with the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. During that meeting the Children's Trust staff were tasked with creating a Comprehensive Literacy Plan.

It was determined that a comprehensive needs assessment was needed to help inform the development of a comprehensive literacy plan aimed at improving literacy achievement for all students. In October 2023, discussions were held with UF Lastinger Center about project coordination and developing the assessment.

Project Phases and Overview:

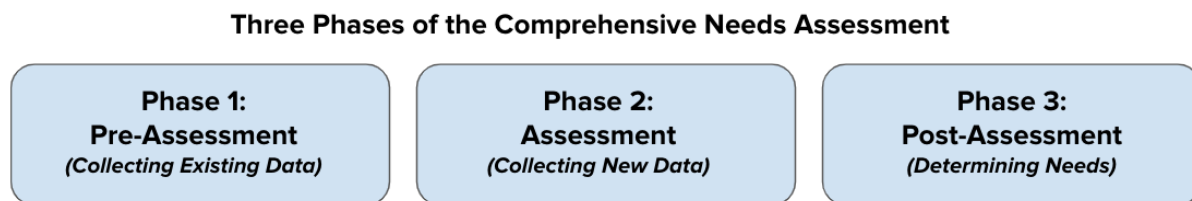


Figure 1: Three Phase of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment adapted from Witkin & Altschuld (1995).

We have completed all phases of the project plan.

Who's at the Table:

We know that schools can't do it alone, and that it will take our entire community to reach our goal for children to be ready for kindergarten and 90% reading on grade-level by the end of third grade. We also know there are many adults in our community who are faced with literacy challenges. To help with the 3 phases of the Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment, expertise was received from:

Alachua County School District

Alachua County Public Library

United Way of North Central Florida

**Alachua County Campaign for Grade Level Reading
Advisory Board**

UF Anita Zucker Center	Florida Campaign for Grade Level Reading
UF Lastinger Center	Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce
Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County	University of Florida Literacy Institute
Gainesville Thrives	Peak Literacy
Cuscowilla Nature and Retreat Center	One Community Health and Wellness Center
Episcopal Children's Services	

These organizations selected a representative with expertise in the space of early childhood learning, K-12 Education systems, adult literacy, and Community. A total of 15 meetings have been held with this committee.

Cost of Literacy Needs Assessment:

The total project cost was \$175,000.00 with approximately \$75,000 of in-kind services provided by the Lastinger Center. It was funded in collaboration as follows:

Children's Trust of Alachua County	\$62,500.00
Alachua County Board of County Commission	\$62,500.00 (Received)
Alachua County School District	\$50,000.00
University of Florida Lastinger Center	\$75,000.00 In-kind support which includes 2 additional Lastinger Center team members and additional personnel support

Overview:

Today the Lastinger Center will provide an overview of the final report and recommendations. The Children's Trust Project Manager will share CTAC recommendations and the next steps toward developing a literacy plan for the community.

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 2: Children & Youth Can Learn What They Need To Be Successful

Fiscal Impact:

\$175,000.00

Recommendation:

Approve the requested action