



Item:

Alachua County Reads Initiative Monthly Update

Requested Action:

1. The Board is asked to receive the update.

Update

The July 15, 2026 Alachua County Reads (ACR) partner meeting served as the official kick-off for a countywide literacy initiative focused on improving outcomes through coordinated programming, instructional support, intervention, and future readiness efforts. The meeting's purpose was to introduce the scope of the initiative, highlight contributing experts and lead partners, and align community organizations around a shared literacy strategy. The initiative will operate through two integrated arms: programming led by Literacy Catalyst, operated by PEAK Literacy and the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI), and coordination led by the Alachua County Reads team.

During the partners meeting, ACR introduced a Community Advisory Council designed to promote the project and encourage countywide participation from caregivers, youth, faith communities, civic and business leaders, early literacy experts, and system-sector partners. This council structure demonstrates a strong emphasis on cross-sector representation and community voice in implementation. Early Childhood Coordinator Mia Jones will serve as the Children's Trust of Alachua County Liaison, supporting operations and accountability and reinforcing the importance of governance and coordination alongside direct service delivery.

Continued partner collaboration is scheduled for October 14, 2026; January 13, 2027; April 14, 2027; and July 14, 2027.

Programmatic Impact:

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

Fiscal Impact:

\$550,000.00

Recommendation:

1. The Board is asked to receive the requested action.