

HILL FOR LITERACY

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



186

Schools Served in
School Year 19-20



3,500+

Teachers Trained in
School Year 19-20



60,000+

Children Reached in
School Year 19-20



82 cents

of every dollar we spent
went toward direct
delivery in schools
in School Year 19-20

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Like many other organizations and schools across the country, School Year 19-20 began in a seemingly normal fashion. Over the summer, we had great success with our first Summer Institute for Literacy Leadership (SILL) in partnership with Crafting Minds and The Grimes Reading Institute. The results of the initiative were published in a white paper and generated interest from other school districts in replicating the summer program in their region. We launched professional development trainings for our Northshore Leadership Series in partnership with several organizations and districts in that region and were looking forward to further engagement with those schools in the spring.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the country ground to a halt. Schools had to pivot on a dime to virtual classes. But thanks to our nimbleness as an organization as well our expertise and technology, it had little impact on our ability to continue delivering necessary training to our school partners.

In fact, the demand for our services increased, driving us to accelerate our online delivery model. Within a short period of time, we were holding weekly district-wide professional development over Zoom and providing classroom support and virtual training on assessment programs. In our Connecticut K-3 Literacy Initiative, we supported two hybrid model summer school programs where we assisted the administration with coordination and provided training and coaching for the summer school teachers and interventionists. We even launched a new Science of Reading series and provided coaching and training for teachers on how to deliver effective instruction to students virtually.

Due to our investment in creating new technology to transition key components of our work to an online format, we were well-positioned to make this switch quickly and efficiently. Spring 2020 was a learning experience for every school in the country as well as organizations like ours. While we look forward to being able to return to schools, we're eager to launch more online tools we have in development so we can reach those schools where they are, whether that's in person or online, and have a positive impact on their students.

That's a core part of our plans for the upcoming school year. We've added new components to our web application, HILL Online. We're ready to pilot Roadmap, our new online needs assessment application, as well as introduce more of our schools to Continuum, the online data meeting process which we piloted in school year 19-20. And we now have Expertise, an eLearning platform that allows people to access our professional development remotely. While there is still much uncertainty about the upcoming school year, we're ready to continue supporting all of our schools with robust virtual delivery for as long as necessary.

As a nonprofit, our organization's ability to continue operations is due in part to the generous donations of community members and foundations. We don't take the challenge of teaching kids to read lightly: according to the latest NAEP results, 65% of 4th graders fail to read at grade level each year and we know that we can help them even if they aren't in a physical classroom. Your support can have a tangible, meaningful impact on the lives of children in HILL schools. Donations can be made via our website www.hillforliteracy.org or by contacting the HILL office at 1-888-860-0190.

Best Wishes,



Darci Burns, Ph.D.
Executive Director

”

Everyone instantly had to adapt. The HILL adapted along with us.

Amy Mullen

English and Language Arts Supervisor (K-5)
Middletown Public Schools

VIRTUAL PIVOT HIGHLIGHTS

We interviewed some of the participants in our CK3LI project who benefited from the HILL's virtual support between the time schools closed in March and June 30, 2020 and **the positive response was overwhelming!**

”

Every week I took away a new pearl, and something that I needed to change or implement into my routines with my kids. Just in the last six weeks alone, there's a student I've worked with who's an English Language learner, and he has absolutely blossomed.

Melanie Fieffe

Reading Interventionist
Norwalk Public Schools



TESTIMONIAL VIDEO:
bit.ly/HILLVirtual

MISSION

To guide educators at all levels through the process of creating schools that excel in developing students' language & literacy skills.

VISION

To help all US schools teach language & literacy effectively, with a million children moving from struggling to reading on level each year.

IMPACT OF THE HILL SOLUTION

The HILL solution was adapted to a condensed, intensive setting in a recent initiative, the **Summer Institute for Literacy Leadership (SILL)**, that trained 20 teachers across 4 districts over a 4-week period. With coaching from our institute staff, they taught 33 students (83% English Language Learners, on an IEP, or both) in grades 1-5 which resulted in impressive gains across all measures of phonemic awareness, decoding, and oral reading fluency in a short span of time.

SILL integrated coursework and practicum experiences designed to support the development of structured literacy practices that are critical for addressing weaknesses in reading. Presented in partnership with Crafting Minds and The Grimes Reading Institute, SILL was sponsored by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and hosted by the Somerville Public School District during Summer 2019.

The institute focused on three critical areas:

1. **Building teacher background knowledge** in the science of reading
2. Coaching educators as they plan and deliver **Tier 2 Structured Literacy routines**
3. Supporting teachers' ability to **create learning environments that foster intrinsic motivation**

Normally this work would be delivered throughout the school year, but for SILL we were able to do this in a controlled setting and condensed timeframe with remarkable results as illustrated in the graph, video, and white paper below.

”

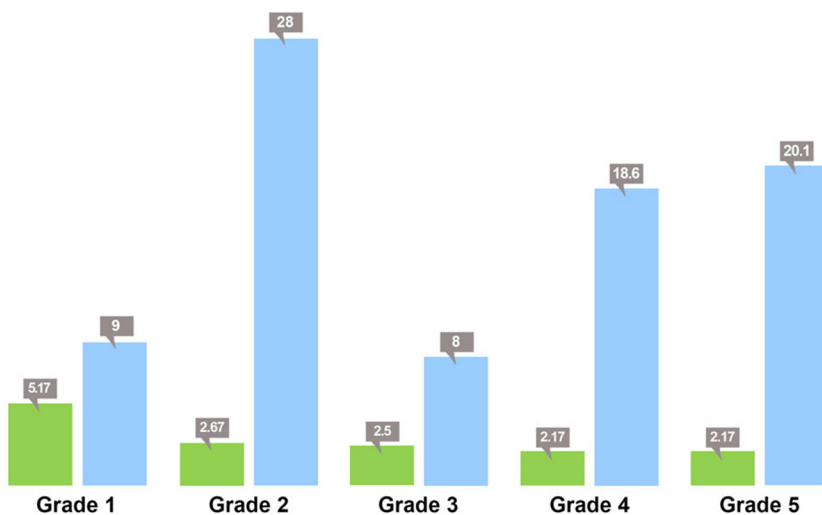
“One of the most transformative PDs I’ve ever been involved in.”

Dara Gibbons, M.Ed.
Learning Specialist

Average Gains: SILL v. Typical Growth in ORF-WCPM

ORF-WCPM = Oral Reading Fluency – Words Correct Per Minute

■ Typical Growth* ■ SILL Growth



*Typical Growth based on Hasbrouck & Tindal (2017) Compiled ORF Norms



WATCH THE VIDEO

bit.ly/SILLVideo



READ THE WHITE PAPER

bit.ly/SILLWhitepaper

Interested? Contact Us for a Consultation

888.860.0190 | info@hillforliteracy.org | www.hillforliteracy.org

KEY PARTNERS

Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the Connecticut General Assembly
Center on Teaching and Learning, *University of Oregon*
Center for Behavioral Education & Research, *University of Connecticut*
Commonwealth Learning Online Institute
Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors
Connecticut State Department of Education
Crafting Minds
Educational Performance Systems, Inc
The Grimes Reading Institute
Keys to Literacy
Literacy How
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Professional Training Institute
Public Consulting Group
Rhode Island Department of Education
RMC Research Corporation
Schoolworks
The Reading Institute
ThinkSRSD

BOARD

Officers

Brad Neuenhaus, MBA
President

Geoffrey MacDonald, SBA, MCPPO
Treasurer

Laurie LaVallee
Clerk

Directors

Darci Burns, Ph.D.
Dr. Edward J. Gotgart
Paul Jermain
John H. Knowles
David C. Poole

STAFF

Administration

Darci Burns, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Shira M. Cohen-Goldberg, Ed.M.
Director of Product Development

MarcyKate Connolly
Marketing Director

Megan Lanoue
Tech Support Specialist & Research Coordinator

Laurie LaVallee
Operations Director

Jennifer McAlpine
Development Director

Chris Moore
Director of Business Services & Technology

Eleni X. Steadman, M.S., CCC-SLP
Director of Professional Development & Outreach

Facilitators

Cara Dellaterra
Tera B. Dunn, M.Ed., CAGS
Jenna Gampel, M.Ed.
Diana Malkin, M.Ed., CAGS
Nancy McDonald, M.Ed., CAGS
Cindy McGurl, Ph.D., NCSP
Kelly Soule, M.A., CAGS
Michelle Taylor, M.Ed.
Lisa Ziobron, M.A.

Consultants

Scott Baker, Ph.D.
Carol Dissen, M.S.
Devin Kearns, Ph.D.
Kaitlin Leonard, M.Ed.
Ashley Oldham, Ph.D.

DONORS

Cummings Foundation, Inc
Amazon Smile

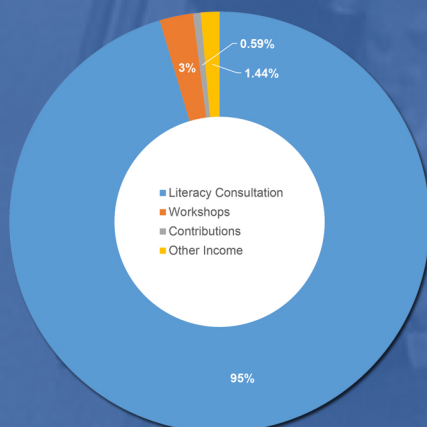
SCHOOLS

For a complete listing of the 186 HILL schools, please visit our website at:
hillforliteracy.org/results/full-client-list/

FINANCIALS

from FY 2018-19 financial audit

Income



Expenses

