



Organization Information

Organization Name: Literacy First

Organization Description:

Literacy First works with districts to implement and sustain effective High-Dosage Tutoring (HDT) through a daily 1-on-1 evidence-based lesson model. Literacy First has been proven effective in accelerating K-2nd grade students' foundational reading skills and closing early reading achievement gaps so that students can take full advantage of core classroom instruction. Literacy First uses a Response-to-Intervention (RtI) model that identifies K-2nd grade students performing below expectations in the most critical early reading skills (phonemic awareness, letter-sound fluency, alphabetic principle, phonics, and oral reading fluency), provides daily, targeted interventions that are delivered by highly trained tutors, using data to drive instruction. All K-2 students in the school are administered screening tests for program eligibility at BOY and MOY, and all students served by the program are administered weekly progress-monitoring assessments to monitor growth. All data is shared with school staff on a regular basis, providing additional, meaningful, and reliable data to complement and validate school-based assessments. At least 80% of students show a strong, positive response to the interventions, and demonstrate long-term benefits of effective early intervention. Students who reach grade level word reading and oral reading fluency levels by the end of first or second grade go on to pass the STAAR reading (and math) assessments in 3rd grade at significantly higher rates than students who do not receive the intervention. Many of these students go on to pass state accountability assessments at rates comparable to peers who never evidenced risk.

Literacy First currently is focused in the Region 13 area, but could serve additional areas in the future.

Tutor Types

Please list the types of tutors your organization has available (e.g., college students, retired teachers, etc.).

Full-time AmeriCorps members who are recent college graduates, mid-career adults, parents or adults from our school communities, and retirees. Other tutors are district paraprofessional staff, and they are typically parents or adults from the school community.

Number of Available Tutors

120

Contact Information

Name: Mary Ellen Isaacs

Phone Number: 512-232-2286

Email Address: meisaacs@austin.utexas.edu

Website: www.literacyfirst.org