

Reading Foundations: A model for early grade literacy instruction

What is it?

Reading Foundations (RF), a model for teaching foundational reading skills, was developed by the partners involved in Milwaukee Succeeds' Third Grade Reading Network. The goal of the model is to increase third grade reading proficiency by moving students from below target to on target. RF creates readers by providing intensive evidence-based coaching to K-2 teachers on foundational reading and social emotional skills; this coaching is then aligned with tutoring, parent engagement workshops, and experiential learning opportunities.

You can see all components in this comprehensive image to the right. Evidence-based tutoring and teacher coaching on foundational reading instruction are the two areas we are most focused on currently.

Teacher coaching: Research shows the leading indicator for student success in schools is the teacher. Through training, RF coaching improves the content knowledge of teachers and optimizes classroom instruction, which improves teacher effectiveness and quality to combat the reading achievement gap. Along with initial training, teachers receive ongoing classroom support from qualified coaches. This is done through modeling for the teacher, co-teaching, observing then providing reflective notes, and utilizing social and academic progress monitoring data for meaningful feedback. RF coaches are crucial to increasing teacher expertise and building capacity within in schools in order to provide the best instruction we can offer to the students who need it the most.

Student tutoring: Tutoring, as a supplement to classroom instruction, is considered the most powerful form of instruction for increasing underachieving students reading achievement. RF places tutors trained in evidence-based practices into schools to provide one-on-one literacy tutoring that targets individual needs.

Is it working?

Yes! UWM recently did an evaluation of the Reading Foundations model, and found that students who received RF instruction performed significantly better on standardized testing (STAR) than comparable students who did not receive RF instruction. For more details on the findings, you can find the full report and the summary of the report on the same webpage that you accessed this document!

Where is RF now?

Reading Foundation's pilot year was 2014—two public schools were part of the pilot. For the 2017-18 school year, Reading Foundations was in 21 schools that represented public, choice and charter schools.

Please locate this information on the following page.



Reading Foundations / Transformative Reading Instruction (TRI)

No.	Schools	School Years				School Type			Tutor Service		
		2014 Pilot	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	MPS	Charter	Choice	WRC	SPARK	Vello
1	Clarke Street School	•	•	•	•	•				•	
2	Gwen T. Jackson	•	•	•	•	•			•		
3	Rogers Street Academy		•	•	•	•				•	
4	Carver Academy		•	•	•	•				•	
5	Forest Home Avenue School		•	•	•	•			•		
6	Saint Catherine		•	•	•			•	•		
7	Milwaukee Academy of Science		•	•	•		•		•		
8	Metcalfe			•	•	•					•
9	Hopkins Lloyd Community			•	•	•			•		
10	Parkview School			•	•	•			•		
11	Northwest Catholic School			•	•			•	•		
12-15	Milwaukee College Preparatory (MCP) Campuses (no coaching)			•	•		•		•		
16	Mitchell Integrated Arts School			•!	•	•				•	
17	St. Rafael			•!	•			•			
18	Prince of Peace			•!	•			•			
19	Maple Tree				•	•					
20	Capitol West				•		•				
21	Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning				•	•					

•! Began midway through the year

For further questions regarding the Reading Foundations model, please contact Mary Schmidt maryschmidt@me.com

**Technical note:

Reading Foundations was initially called “Transformative Reading Instruction” or TRI. In 2018, the TRI was officially renamed Reading Foundations.