



# CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMUNITY PLAN (CYCP) REPORT CARD



ALEXANDRIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS ENSURING EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS TODAY AND TOMORROW

## MARCH IS...

National Reading Month

## CYCP GOAL

All Children and Youth are Academically Successful and Career-Ready

## CARING ADULT SPOTLIGHT

Jenny Moya, Patricia Amaya, and Christian Reynolds are the Bilingual Spanish/English storytime leads for Alexandria Library. Each month they act out skits in English and Spanish, read stories, and sing songs with kids and their caregivers to crowds of over 100 excited community members. Storytimes are offered several times a week at four library branches and all staff make an effort to present creative, educational and fun programs that frequently highlight other languages and cultural events that are represented in Alexandria. A recent bilingual English/Spanish storytime featured Patricia buzzing around as the popular character Fly Guy and getting into everything, including the garbage! A recent caregiver attendee wrote:



“ I was delighted to attend a bilingual story time event for children from five years of age down at Beatley Library in Alexandria. I was amazed at how Christian, Patricia, and Jenny were able to keep a crowd of about 40 to 50 toddlers as happy and engaged as they did for almost a whole hour. With a variety of stories from books, songs and dances in both English and Spanish, the children were never lacking for something to listen to and take part in... Most children sang and danced enthusiastically... As a Latin American myself, I was especially pleased by the fact that both English and Spanish languages were used as a learning experience throughout the event in such a joyous and positive way, providing the children and their parents a chance to connect in their own language and feel engaged and respected. ”

## RESULT

All Alexandria youth can read proficiently by the end of third grade

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Reading is one of the most critical skills in life. It is the foundation for learning and a strong predictor for graduating from high school. Reading proficiently by the end of third grade can be a make-or-break benchmark in a child's educational development. Up until the end of third grade, most children are *learning to read*. Beginning in fourth grade, however, they are *reading to learn*.

A national study conducted by the City University of New York in 2011 shows that students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma than proficient readers.

Research shows that young people who read for pleasure at least three hours a week exhibit more positive than negative values. That is why it is Asset #25 of the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets.



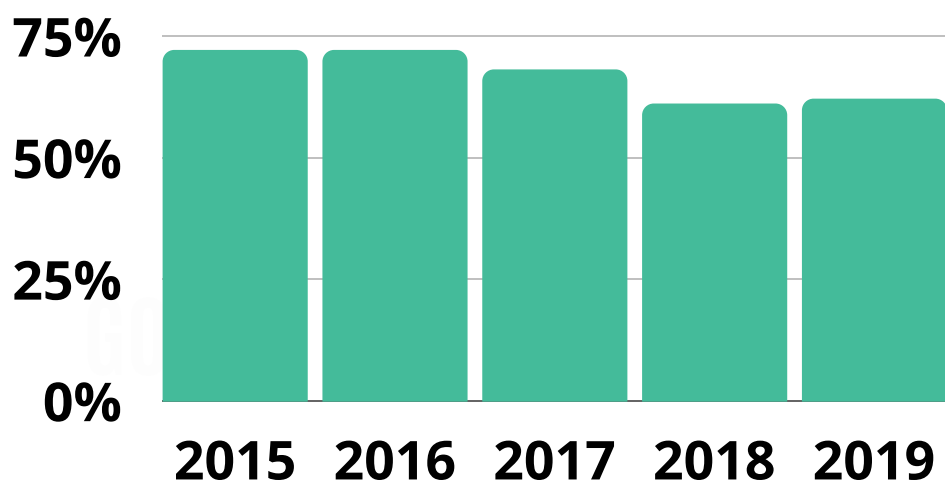


# CYCP REPORT CARD

## HOW WE ARE DOING

### Third Grade Reading

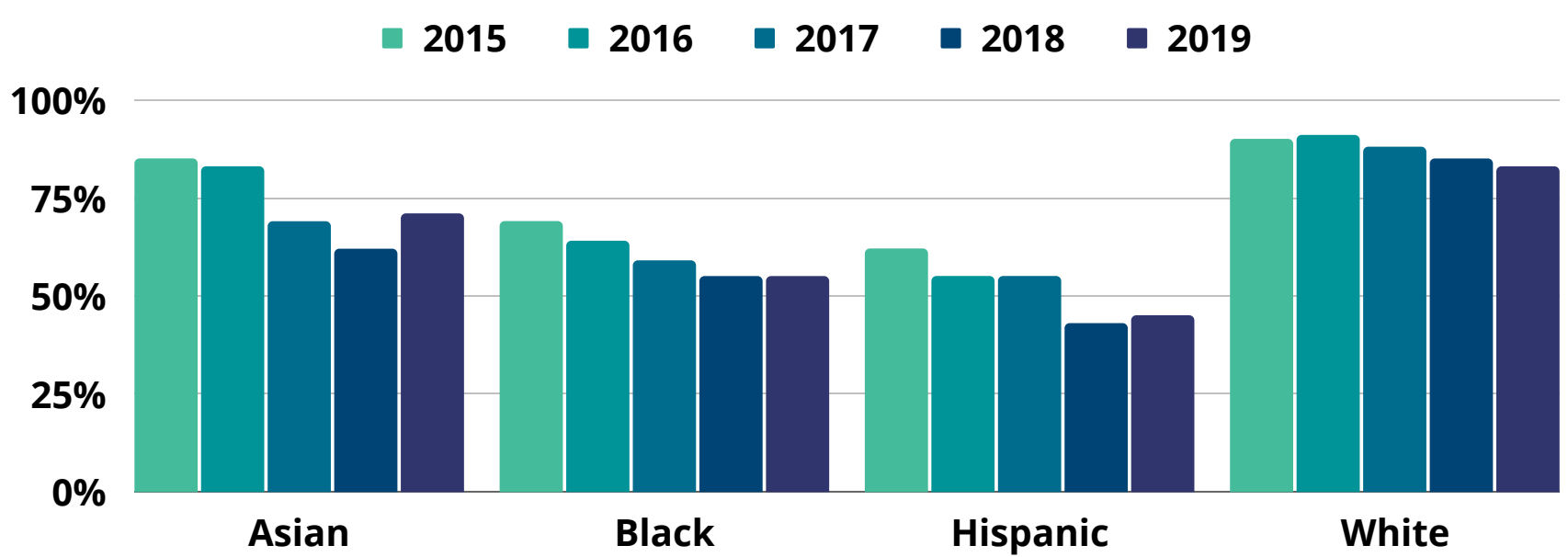
Source: Alexandria Public Schools (ACPS) iDashboard



Reading proficiency among ACPS students has decreased by 15% between 2015 and 2019

### Third Grade Reading by Race/Ethnicity

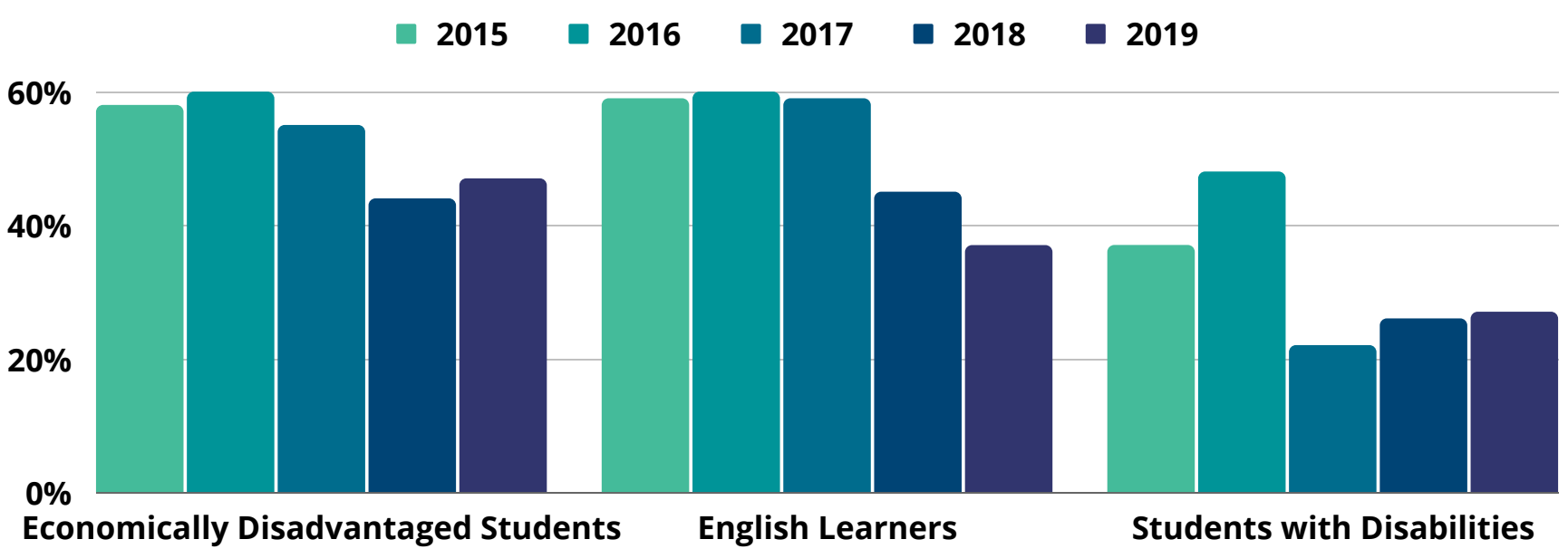
Source: ACPS iDashboard



According to the iDashboard maintained by ACPS, 62% of students met benchmarks in 3rd grade reading (2019). When looking at the outcomes disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background, we see significant disparities across all groups. These educational disparities are a reflection of discrimination and unequal opportunities to learn, and a cry for our immediate attention.

### Third Grade Reading by Sub-Group

Source: ACPS iDashboard



## KEY PARTNER



**ALEXANDRIA**  
LIBRARY

## CYCP STRATEGY

**Strategy #27:** Promote equity and inclusion at the school and classroom level





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## HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

Between April 2021 and April 2022:

\$0

The Alexandria Library waived all past overdue charges for late books and stopped collecting fines on late materials.

317

Spanish language books for children were added to the Library's collection.

231

Arabic language books for children were added to the collection.

98

Amharic language picture books were added to the collection.

754

Programs for were delivered to 12,111 children, ages 0-18.

150

Chromebooks with built-in hotspots are now available for checkout through a Chromebook Lending Program that was launched in March 2022.



## HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

Amharic language picture books for children have been checked out over 150 times.

Arabic language books for children have been checked out over 200 times.

Spanish language books for children have been checked out over 80 times.



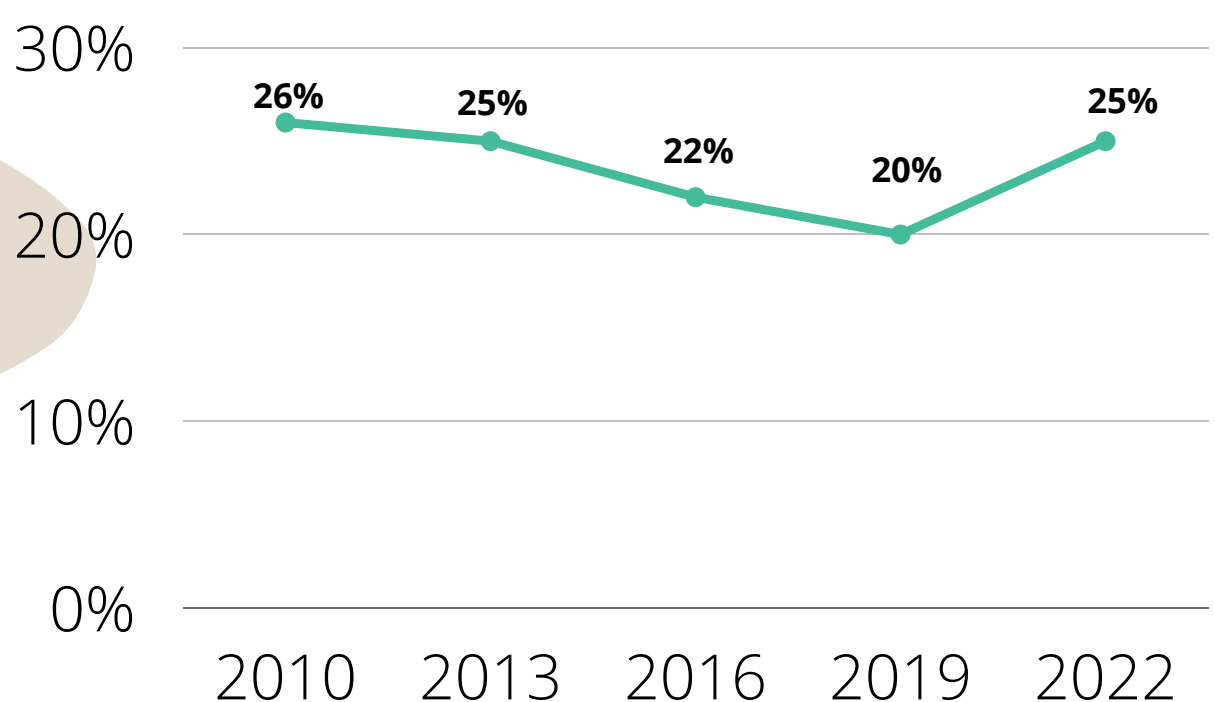
81% of individuals who attended an outdoor program was satisfied or very satisfied with the program

\$37,970 invested into the Summer Reading Program Budget

## IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

### Reading for Pleasure

% of ACPS Students who read for pleasure 3+ hours per week  
Source: Developmental Assets Survey



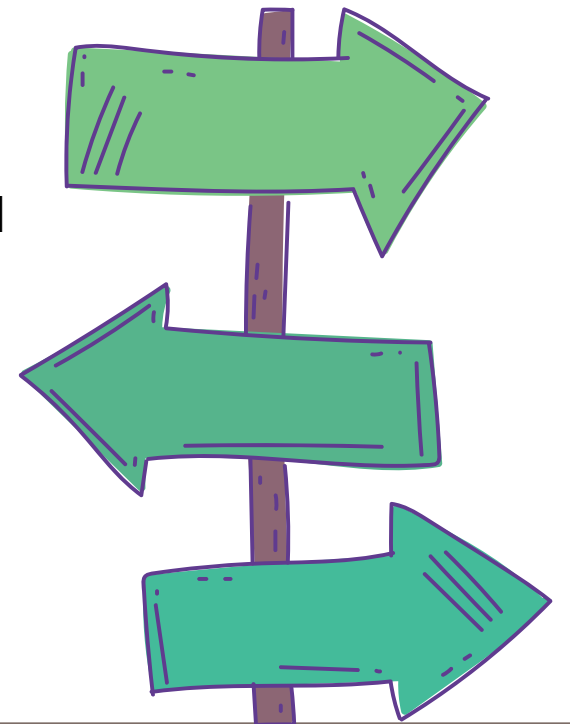


# CYCP REPORT CARD

## WHERE WE ARE HEADED

In the next year, Alexandria Library will:

- Add Persian books for children to the collection for the first time to meet the needs of new students from Afghanistan.
- Work with ACPS to provide 2,000 library cards directly to new students through the ConnectEd program.
- Embed itself in new Out of School Time initiatives and research supported by the city including participation and leadership in the Youth Support Network.
- Continue the transition to primarily teen-led initiatives and programming to build strong community leaders through a new volunteering program, and nurture past partnerships such as the Youth Leadership Conference with ACAP and SAPCA.



## RESOURCES

- **[Brainfuse HelpNow:](#)**
  - Connect LIVE with a certified tutor, seven days a week between 2 and 11 pm, for assistance with assignments, research and writing. Also find practice tests, study plans, and more. Tutoring is available in English and Spanish.
- **1,000 Books before Kindergarten**
  - Parents/guardians are challenged to read to their children to get them ready to succeed! This program is ongoing and for all children who have not yet started Kindergarten.
  - Sign up today for our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program and earn prizes as you read toward 1,000 books! [Learn more here.](#)
  - ¡Bienvenido a 1,000 Libros antes del Kindergarten!

### **Tips for building this asset...**

#### **In your home and family:**

- Make it easy for kids to read for pleasure at your house. Provide a variety of reading materials such as novels, magazines, newspapers, and comic books.
- Let the young people around you see you reading. Discuss issues with them that come up or other ideas you've learned from books.
- Set aside a family reading time once a week. With younger children, read aloud together in the language you are most comfortable with. With older children, read different books while hanging out together, or read the same book and then discuss it.
- Limit TV and computer time.



#### **In your neighborhood and community:**

- Volunteer to read books aloud to children in your community center, school, faith community, child-care center, or library.

#### **In your school or youth program:**

- Set up a book club to read popular fiction, nonfiction, or classics. Get together outside of class or during the regular program time to informally discuss the books you read.

