

COVID-19 and student learning
in the United States:

THE HURT COULD
LAST A LIFETIME



The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Looks Forward

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CIVIC ACTION AND ADVOCACY AGENDA, 2023–2026

The sobering realities of the magnitude and longer-term implications of pandemic-precipitated learning loss demand serious, urgent and sustained attention. Toward that end, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR) is recharging its Learning Loss Recovery Challenge and focusing its network mobilization initiatives on advancing and accelerating equitable academic recovery. Local stakeholder coalitions across CGLR’s 350+ network communities will be encouraged, supported and equipped to pursue a robust *civic action and advocacy agenda* that prioritizes:

- **Advocating for digital connectivity and universal access to the internet;**
- **Working with schools and school districts to ensure “smart” decisions to invest in some “big bets” around technology-enhanced teaching and learning, teacher development (especially coaching), effective tutoring (and other relational supports such as coaches and mentors), family engagement and promoting everyday attendance;**
- **Embracing the “learning happens everywhere” approach that makes learning-rich environments community-wide and ubiquitous;**
- **Implementing the U.S. Department of Education’s call to build the kindergarten year into a “more sturdy bridge” between the early years and the early grades; and**
- **Partnering with public housing agencies to build the 24/7/365 multigenerational “surround sound” systems of care, supports and services that children growing up in economically challenged, fragile and marginalized families need.**

The **civic action and advocacy agenda** for equitable academic recovery will be guided and undergirded by the foundational CGLR imperatives.

1 Focus on improving the prospects for the children of economically challenged, fragile and marginalized families who are disproportionately families of color.

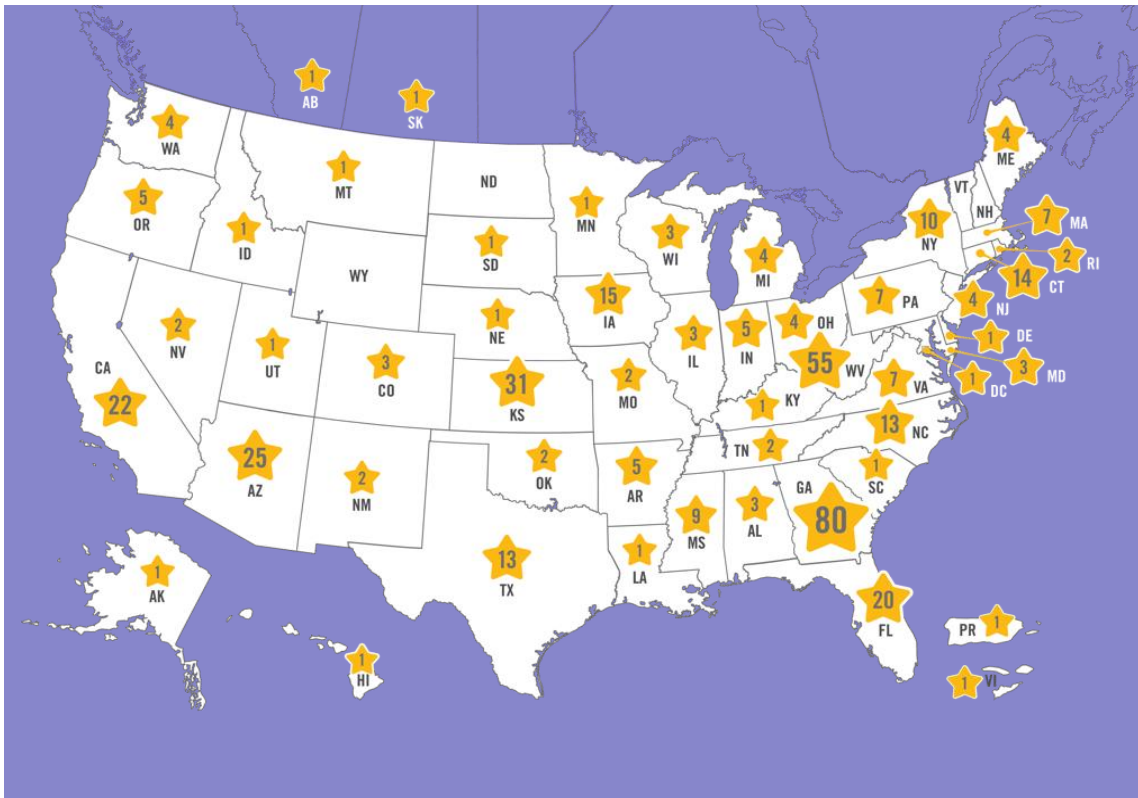
2 Elevate and center parents by equipping them to succeed as primary stakeholders and essential partners in improving outcomes and the overall well-being of their children.

3 Practice intentional collaboration as the preferred approach for enhancing impact and engaging allies, champions and partners.

4 Work and learn alongside the stakeholders most proximate to the problems and, therefore, to potential solutions.

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading seeks to disrupt generational poverty by mobilizing communities to find solutions for one of the major obstacles in the pathway out of poverty — failure to read proficiently by the end of third grade. We activate and engage communities to do three things: **Place a stake in the ground** around a third-grade reading goal that is ambitious, achievable and actionable. **Develop a Community Solutions Action Plan** to solve the major drivers of the third-grade reading proficiency gap — too few young children ready for school; too many students missing too many days of school; and too many children experiencing summer learning loss. **Engage the cross-sector stakeholder coalition** needed to implement the plan, most notably data holders, providers of services and supports to families and young children, and — most importantly — parents and caregivers. We support the work in participating GLR communities by serving as a **hub** for network learning and peer coaching, a **broker** for needed information and tools, an accelerator of progress lifting up Bright Spots and recognizing Pacesetters, and a **distribution channel** for innovative proven and promising models, programs, ideas and messages.

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Momentum Continues to Build!

The GLR Communities Network includes 350+ communities in 49 U.S. jurisdictions (46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) and two Canadian provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan) — sponsored by 5,000+ organizations, institutions and agencies, including 700 state, regional and local funders, 200 United Ways, and 100+ sector- and field-leading organizations and affiliate networks that are engaged as allies, champions and partners.

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