

North Dakota Reading Corps (K-3)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is Reading Corps?

Reading Corps, an AmeriCorps program, engages people in service while providing a monthly living allowance and an education award that can be used for college tuition or student loans. Reading Corps tutors serve part-time throughout the school year at a designated host school, with the goal of **helping every child become a successful reader by the end of 3rd grade.**

How Does Reading Corps Work?

- Reading Corps tutors are trained to provide daily one-on-one, 20-minute sessions with K-3 students five days a week.
- Tutors provide targeted interventions in phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency.
- Tutors administer weekly one-minute reading probes and create individual graphs to illustrate each student's progress.
- Tutors receive daily support from a staff member at their assigned school, called an Internal Coach. Once per month, the Internal Coach, Master Coach, and tutor meet to review each student's data and determine if interventions need to be adjusted.

Who Are Reading Corps Tutors?

- Reading Corps tutors have signed up for a year of national service as AmeriCorps members.
- Reading Corps tutors are not employees of the school district, nor are they paraprofessionals.
- In order to become a Reading Corps tutor, candidates must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma, and be a Legal Permanent Resident or US Citizen.
- Candidates do not need a background in education to apply—we train and coach each tutor in proven strategies to help students succeed. We simply look for individuals who are responsible, organized, motivated, and that can speak, read, and write English fluently.

Who Qualifies for Reading Corps Support?

- Kindergarten through 3rd grade students falling in the 49th percentile or below for reading.
- Students who need reading skill practice versus intensive reading instruction in longer daily sessions.
- Students receiving special education or English Language

services are eligible on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the Internal Coach in collaboration with school staff.

What Strategies Do We Use?

The interventions used by Reading Corps tutors provide additional practice to supplement the core reading instructional program provided by the school, focusing on basic skills such as phonemic awareness, letter sound knowledge, decoding skill, and oral reading fluency. Tutors are trained to deliver ten research-based supplemental reading interventions, including:

- **Phoneme Blending:** The student builds the skill of blending individual phonemes (smallest individual units of sound of spoken language) into words.
- **Letter Sound Correspondence:** The student builds the skill of associating the correct sounds with letters.
- **Duet Reading:** The student builds fluency skills with modeling and practice.

How Do We Measure Success?

To measure student success in the program, North Dakota Reading Corps conducts benchmark assessments in the fall, winter, and spring. These are one-minute assessments from Formative Assessment for Teachers (FAST), from the University of Minnesota, and include Letter Naming Fluency, Letter Sound Fluency, Nonsense Word Fluency, and CBM-Reading (3 passages).

Additionally, progress monitoring assessments are conducted weekly to gauge the effectiveness of each intervention and progress of the student.

How is North Dakota Reading Corps Funded?

ND Reading Corps is currently supported through a AmeriCorps State and National grant, Bismarck, Fargo, Jamestown, Kidder Co., Litchville-Marion, Medina, Northern Cass, Underwood, Washburn, West Fargo, and Wilton school districts, the South East Education Cooperative, the Central Regional Education Association, the United Way of Cass-Clay, the Missouri Slope Areawide United Way, the Otto Bremer Foundation and the Minot Area Foundation.

We're building brighter futures for North Dakota students, one word at a time. Visit ndreadingcorps.org to learn more and view full evaluation reports.