

North Dakota Reading Corps (PreK)

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?

- ND Reading Corps tutors are trained to support the development of preschool children's early language and literacy skills.
- A preschool tutor is placed in one classroom and serves all children (ages 3-5) in their assigned room (Tier 1). Small group (Tier 2) or one-on-one (Tier 3) supplemental support may be provided for children whose assessment data reveal a need for more individualized instruction.
- Tutors receive support from a staff member at their assigned school, called an Internal Coach.
- A Master Coach, employed by Reading Corps, meets with Internal Coaches and tutors monthly to conduct fidelity checks for assessments and interventions and review student progress.

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.

What Strategies Do We Use?

- Tier 1 (large group) interventions support core instruction, provide language and literacy support, incorporate Repeated Read Aloud daily along with talking, reading, and writing to

develop vocabulary and comprehension.

- Tier 2 (small group) and Tier 3 (one-on-one) interventions focus on Repeated Read Aloud, oral language and vocabulary, visual discrimination, and phonological awareness.

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. Assessment tools include the Individual Growth and Developmental Indicators (IGDIs) and Formative Assessment for Teachers (FAST), which were developed at the University of Minnesota. They are brief assessments which include letter naming fluency, letter sound fluency, rhyming, picture naming, and alliteration.

More frequent, on-going assessment is administered with children receiving Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 support. The purpose of more frequent assessment is to gauge student progress and the effectiveness of the intervention.

How is North Dakota Reading Corps Funded?

ND Reading Corps is currently supported through an AmeriCorps State and National grant, the South East Education Cooperative, and through private foundation grants and host site fees



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.