



Doing The Work



Several lead supporters have stepped up to help guide and implement the Campaign's strategies:

- [Community Foundation of Sarasota County](#)
- [Manatee Community Foundation](#)
- [Sarasota County Schools](#)
- [School District of Manatee County](#)
- [The Patterson Foundation](#)
- [United Way of Manatee County](#)
- [USF Sarasota-Manatee](#)

In addition to these organizations, there are many nonprofits, schools and other organizations that are already doing meaningful work related to the campaign's focus areas. For a list of those organizations, click [here](#).

Thinking About ...

Nationwide, third-grade reading statistics paint a grim picture: 67 percent of all children and 80 percent of those from low-income families cannot read on grade level by the end of third grade, an indicator of negative long-term life consequences.

Individuals and organizations in Manatee and Sarasota counties are coming together to share a vision for success – from ideas and information to strategies and learning opportunities – through the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR).

Part of the more than 168 communities in the national CGLR network, the Suncoast CGLR is a communitywide effort in Manatee and Sarasota counties to help all children, especially those from low-income families, succeed in school and in life by ensuring they read on grade level by the end of third grade.

As the campaign progresses and community support expands, this monthly newsletter will continue to be a source to keep you abreast of what is developing within our region.

For more information, visit the recently launched Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading website, www.gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net.

Moving The Needle



The national campaign emphasizes the importance of beginning to address challenges early in life – starting with quality parent/family engagement from birth – before children ever enter a classroom. Each county has its unique challenges to address and there are many opportunities to pursue excellence.

Based on 2014 FCAT scores:

51% of students in Manatee County (1,996 out of 3,914 students) in third grade and above can read on grade level

71% of students in Sarasota County (2,170 of 3,056 students) in third grade and above can read on grade level

According to 2014 enrollment statistics:

60% of Manatee County students in pre-K through third grade (9,088 of 15,258 students) qualify for free and reduced lunch

57% of Sarasota County students in pre-K through third grade (7,655 of 13,540 students) qualify for free or reduced lunch

While each county is making progress, our communities strive for excellence. Unique approaches are needed to tackle the needs and challenges of each county, but there is much to learn and share together. There may be boundary-spanning activities and approaches that may benefit both counties as each works toward helping children learn how to read to succeed in school and in life.

Learning & Sharing

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."
~ **Abigail Adams**

Evidence Based Learning Sessions

Wilma Hamilton Delp, retired Superintendent of Schools in Sarasota County, and Lynette Edwards, recently retired Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for Manatee County, recently joined together to present *The Essential Question: Why Does Early Learning Matter?* to interested community members. To learn more about their presentation, click [here](#). To download their presentation, click [here](#).

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Website

For more information, please visit www.gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net. This website will serve as a hub of knowledge for this movement - providing information on the organizations involved, upcoming events, and learning resources.



Learn, Connect & Share on Facebook

Visit and like the [Suncoast CGLR Facebook page](#) to stay informed on upcoming events and news related to the Campaign.

Converse on Twitter



Join the conversation on Twitter using [#GLReading](#) and follow the national campaign [@readingby3rd](#).

Take Action

Support the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading by sharing your aspirations with us by clicking [here](#).

Did You Know?

- SCHOOL READINESS
- SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
- SUMMER LEARNING

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading was launched to reverse this potentially catastrophic trend by supporting common-sense solutions at the federal, state, and local levels. Solutions are focused in the following areas:

- [School Readiness / Early Learning](#)
- [Attendance](#)
- [Summer Learning](#)

These three areas are supported by the need for [strong parental engagement](#) and [health strategies](#).

"What crystallizes the moral imperative to act is the awareness and belief that acting can make a difference."

~ **Ralph Smith**

Connect
[#GLReading](#)
[Suncoast CGLR website](#)



Suncoast Supporters



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For questions, please contact Erika Kelly | ekellyip1@gmail.com



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