



READING ASSIST Fall 2018 Update



Greetings, from the new Executive Director:



Welcome to a new school year! These past few months, I've been humbled to welcome the largest, most diverse group of AmeriCorps members we've ever had.

I am particularly inspired by Cheyenne DeShields, a Delaware native who has seen firsthand some of the

challenges struggling readers face.

Cheyenne told me she wants "students to realize that their lives don't have to be characterized by the negative life choices that they have seen others make. I want to make sure reading struggles do not equate to school failure, low self-esteem, and poor choices." As she says, her goal is "to instill in her students the confidence that they can do anything they put their mind to."

I know how incredibly important this work is. This is the reason I chose to join the staff of Reading Assist this summer. I've come most recently from a position as director of operations at Camden Prep Middle School, an

Uncommon Schools charter school that works with low-income students to close the achievement gap. I believe Reading Assist is poised to grow and create lasting change for students throughout the state - and I'm very excited to be here.

We are so proud of the achievements we have already made in the past few years, and I know that with continued partnership and support we will help Cheyenne and others bring even more success to Delaware's at risk readers.

If you are interested in collaborating or partnering with us in this work, we want to talk to you! Feel free to reach out to me with questions or ideas at any time.

Sincerely,

Caroline O'Neal
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MEET READING ASSIST'S 2018 CLASS OF CERTIFIED READING ASSIST INTERVENTIONISTS

In a brief ceremony at the end of the 2017-18 school year, our 13 RAI Corps members officially became Certified Reading Assist Interventionists in the state of Delaware.

The Reading Assist Intervention Program is the only program in the state accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (better known as IMSLEC). With this accreditation, our certified interventionists can sit for the CERI certification exam from the International Dyslexia Association.



Almost a dozen of Reading Assist's veteran volunteers have also been undergoing rigorous training in the accredited program. They will graduate and be certified this fall.

RAI CORPS DOUBLES IN SIZE, ADDS TWO NEW SCHOOLS

This August, we welcome almost two dozen new RAI Corps members from 14 different states, including Oregon, Texas, North Carolina, Georgia and seemingly everywhere in between. Several of our corps members are returning to Delaware after years away at college or at other service programs, in order to spend a year in service with struggling readers in their home towns.



With 23 new corps members in this year's class, we have nearly

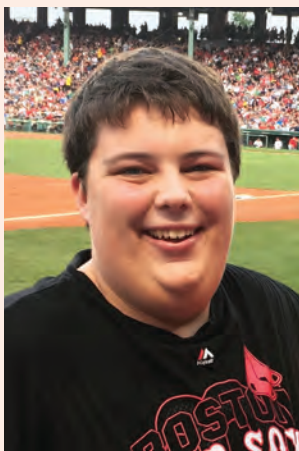
doubled the size of the program since the first year three years ago.

Corps members will continue to deliver one-to-one intervention with students for 45 minutes a day, five days a week, inside six elementary schools of the Colonial School District and Thomas Edison Charter School. This year, we add two new schools to the list: All Saints Catholic School in Elsmere and Kuumba Academy in Wilmington!



We are now recruiting for the 2019-20 school year.

RAI CORPS ALUMNUS JOINS PRESTIGIOUS LANDMARK SCHOOL



After becoming a Certified Reading Assist Interventionist last spring, Boston-area native Stephen Melargani (RAI Corps 2017-18) returned home and joined the faculty of the renown Landmark School, one of the most comprehensive schools serving students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities in the United States.

and pursue a career," Stephen said. "I always knew that I was passionate about reading, but this has opened whole new doors for me. I can't wait to discover more."

"The thought that after a single year in Delaware I would be so sure of what I want to do after years of having no clue would have sounded preposterous to me at the start of the year. Now, I am more ready than ever to pursue my new career."

Reading Assist staff members travelled to Boston this fall at the invitation of administrators at the Landmark School to tell them more about the Reading Assist Intervention Program and the training that members of the RAI Corps receive.

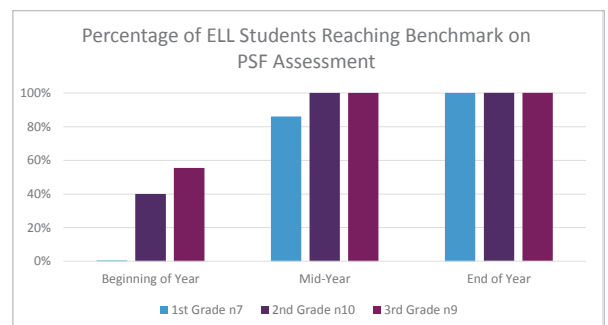
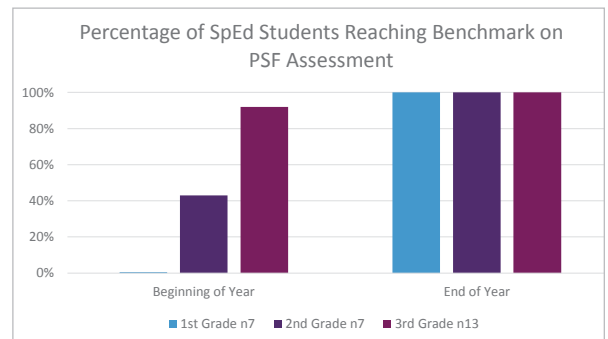
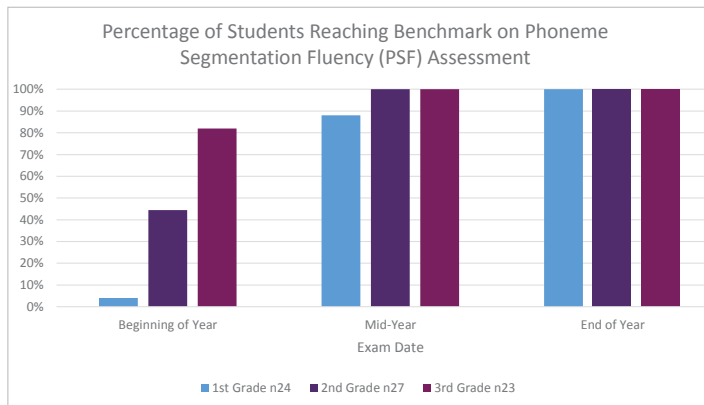
"I finished my year inside the RAI Corps with a newfound passion for literacy and a drive to get educated in the field

“Day by day it was hard to see noticeable differences in the students, but when I looked over the old lesson plans, it was startling to see how much improvement they were making.” – Ryan Turner, 2017-18 Reading Corps

The data in this report supports that one-on-one intensive intervention, delivered consistently five days a week, helps a majority of students in the Reading Assist Intervention Program accelerate their progress toward acquiring the foundational reading skills necessary to succeed academically.

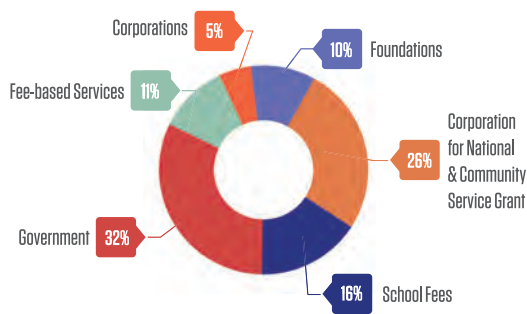
The RAI Program has been shown to work with many Tier III students, including English Language Learners and Special Education students.

The complete report can be found at www.readingasst.org

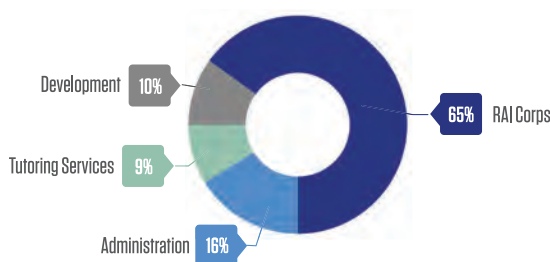


The RAI Reading Corps is funded by a unique private-public-nonprofit model that includes grants from the State of Delaware, support from individual schools where corps member serve, living stipends from AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service, and donations from foundations, corporations and private individuals.

RAI FUNDING



APPLICATION OF FUNDING



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