



# Empowering Strong Readers for Social Change

2022

## Addressing disparities in literacy outcomes is an act of racial justice

Due to the cumulative impacts of racial inequity in education, 80% of Black and Latinx students entering fourth grade do not read proficiently, increasing their risk for adverse life outcomes. CLI is transforming early literacy instruction by amplifying culturally sustaining methods into teacher practice. Our goal is to see the Black and Latinx children we serve learning to read as a powerful act of identity, agency, and cultural joy.

## Learning to read is a strong predictor of a student's future academic achievement.

Children who are not reading on grade level by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. Our goal is to close the opportunity gap between children in under-funded districts and their more affluent peers.

## Who we are and our Mission.

Founded in Philadelphia in 1988, Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on strengthening public education in the United States by ensuring students can read proficiently by the end of third grade. CLI seeks to dismantle structural racism by providing Black and Latinx children with the anti-racist early literacy instruction, support and advocacy needed to create equity in education.

For Black and Latinx children, learning to read is far bigger than building skills – it is an act of liberation. By helping educators learn high-impact, culturally sustaining instructional strategies and nurturing dynamic professional learning communities, CLI builds lasting capacity in teachers and principals over time to advance equity in education. In working with teachers to improve instruction, developing a teacher's instructional expertise impacts student learning and all the children taught over the course of a teacher's career. When catalyzed within our anti-racist early literacy model, CLI programs cultivate strong and joyful readers who will become strong stewards of social justice.

## What sets us apart.

We stand out from other organizations providing books and professional development – our programs are independently evaluated and proven to transform learning outcomes for children. Unlike any early literacy organization, CLI embeds anti-racist and culturally sustaining pedagogy and practices across all content areas including teacher workshops, training, coaching and classroom book collections for children.

In randomized, control-group study, American institutes for Research concluded that, "the CLI program produces substantial effects on teachers' classroom environment and literacy practices, which in turn lead to measurable effects on average reading achievement in early elementary grades."

Children's Literacy Initiative is proud to receive four out of four stars from Charity Navigator, placing us in the top percentile of all charities for fiscal responsibility and good governance.

## Why partner with us.

Your philanthropy reflects your values, passions and goals.

By supporting Children's Literacy Initiative, you are championing racial equity and social justice by helping ensure that children get the resources and instructional support they need to learn to read. You are making an investment in public education and helping to build a nation where every child possesses the power of literacy and the opportunity for a lifetime of success.



To learn more about Children's Literacy Initiative and how we can work with you and professional advisors, contact our Chief Development Officer, Naimah Bilal at [nbilal@cli.org](mailto:nbilal@cli.org), or our Officer, Major Gifts and Gift Planning, Simone Champagnie at [schampagnie@cli.org](mailto:schampagnie@cli.org).

# Empowering Strong Readers for Social Change

For 30 years we have worked to strengthen public education in the U.S. by ensuring Black and Latinx children in under-funded schools can read by the end of third grade. We accomplish this by providing:

## Coaching & Professional Development

CLI helps teachers, school-based coaches, teacher leaders, principals, and district leaders implement strategies & systems for continuous improvement of early literacy instruction.

- + One-on-One Individualized Coaching
- + Grade Level Coaching
- + Small Group Coaching Sessions
- + Leadership Coaching

## Providing the Books & Materials Teachers Need

CLI prioritizes books that center Black and Latinx children and affirm their identities and life experiences, offering mirrors to these children. We customize collections to provide the windows and mirrors needed in a particular classroom or school. The books have a balance of genres, fiction and non-fiction. The books appeal to students' interests, gender and cultures, and are appropriate for both instruction and student enjoyment.

## Best Practices for Teaching Early Literacy

CLI's workshops and institutes build teachers' knowledge of literacy content and pedagogy, whether for virtual, in-person, or blended instruction. We focus on:

- + Classroom Culture & Environment
- + Intentional Read Aloud
- + Guided Reading
- + Reading & Writing Workshops
- + Independent Work Time

## Amplifying Equity Centered Outcomes for Children

CLI recognizes that early literacy learning outcomes for children expand far beyond skills and knowledge building. We emphasize a holistic approach that encompasses these critical learning components along a child's literacy journey:

- + Racial and Cultural Joy
- + Affirming Identities
- + Linguistic Liberation
- + Social Justice/Criticality
- + Literacy Skills
- + Intellect/Knowledge

### STUDENT IMPACT

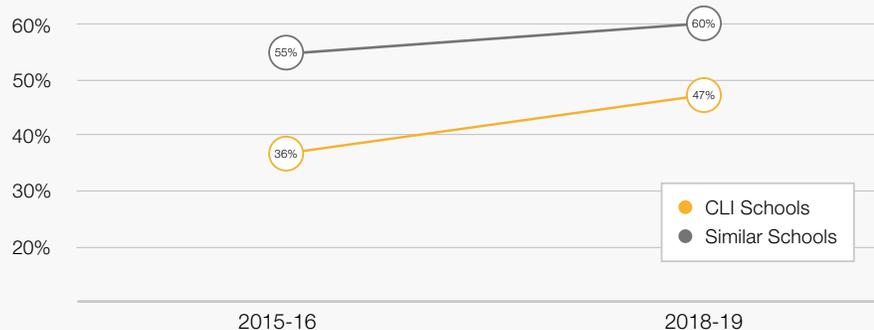
## BROWARD COUNTY

### EMPOWERING EARLY LEARNERS

#### More Students Reaching Reading Proficiency

Within two years, CLI-served schools in Broward County have made dramatic gains. The percentage of third grade students reaching reading proficiency is growing at more than **triple the rate** of similar district schools.

#### 3X Greater Percentage Point Gains in Reading Proficiency in CLI Schools



### OUR NATIONAL IMPACT SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21



**213**  
Schools Served



**37,240**  
Books Distributed



**3,566**  
Educators Served



**74,027**  
Students Served

# Centering Equity: Transforming Literacy Instruction

Children's Literacy Initiative is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization transforming pre-k through fifth grade classrooms. We coach teachers in-person, virtually and through blended learning, stock classrooms, and provide workshops & seminars on research-based and culturally sustaining early literacy best practices to improve instruction so children become powerful, readers, writers and thinkers.



## 30 Years of Experience

Founded in 1988, CLI helps educators serving high-need student populations learn high-impact instructional strategies and nurture dynamic professional learning communities that continue the trajectory of improvement in schools.



## Sustained Impact

Schools served by CLI's i3 Validation project in Philadelphia and Chicago are still outperforming the control schools from that study on third grade, standardized assessments.



## Proven Impact

The American Institutes of Research (AIR) report on a randomized control trial evaluation of CLI's i3 Validation project found statistically significant results for CLI's impact on teacher practice and student learning. Our approach and results are now part of the prestigious What Works Clearinghouse.



## Validated Approach

In 2010, CLI won a highly competitive \$21.7 million Validation grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund to implement its program in 38 schools in four urban cities.



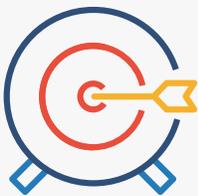
## Expanded Reach

Using results from i3 Validation, CLI in 2015 won, as the highest-scoring applicant, a prestigious, \$19 million i3 Scale-up grant to expand into 27 public schools across the country in Broward County (FL), Denver, Elizabeth City (NJ), and Houston.



## Powerful Partnerships

Pivoting its 30+ years' experience while facing the COVID-19 pandemic, CLI provided teacher coaching and training to support schools and early literacy instruction in the virtual world. Shifting from an in-person model to working with each partner virtually, CLI met the unique needs of educators and students as they transitioned to distance learning.



## Areas of Impact

- Early Education
- Early Learners
- Educational Equity
- Literacy
- Public Education
- Social Justice
- Teacher Professional Development