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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hope Shines Through in Louisiana's 2022 Fall Reading Report

**BATON ROUGE, LA (December 13, 2022)** – The 2022 Fall Reading Report released by Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) provides further reason for hope in Louisiana's march forward in improving literacy outcomes, with small but positive growth in students scoring "On or Above Benchmark" on state-approved literacy assessments in all K-3 grades except kindergarten. These improvements are based on comparisons of performance on literacy assessments in Fall 2022 and Fall 2021.

The Center for Literacy & Learning has been a steady champion for improving literacy outcomes in Louisiana and beyond through literacy wraparound services in schools, school districts, communities, and homes. The Center also informs and leads legislative efforts grounded in best practices.

In 2021, The Center for Literacy & Learning was contracted by the State of Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to implement a literacy coaching model in schools designated as Comprehensive Intervention Required (CIR) or Urgent Intervention Required-Academics (UIR-A) sites. The Literacy Coach Program uses embedded professional development in evidence-based literacy instruction and coaching practices to enact change in student reading proficiency.

As the provider of the Literacy Coach Program (LCP) services for 262 schools and 184 coaches across 64 school districts, in close collaboration with LDOE, the research team at The Center reviewed the Fall Reading Report data for changes among schools that participated in the program. Based on the available data, and schools that used and reported data on the same assessment in 2021 and 2022, there is an even more hopeful story.

In all grades but one, schools that participated in the LCP performed notably better than the state averages — 6 percentage point improvement among kindergarteners, 5 percentage point improvement among first graders, no change among second graders, and 4 percentage point improvement among third graders. The Center first introduced LCP to participating schools in 2021. The improvements across three grade levels highlight the program's potential to provide better instruction and lead to increased proficiency among the state's students in the future. "This is exciting news to see that the Literacy Coach Program pilot program that was approved by the legislature is showing real impact and results for participating schools", stated John Wyble, PhD, CEO of The Center for Literacy & Learning.

DeJunne' Clark Jackson, the President of The Center noted, "the particularly encouraging improvements in schools that participated in the coach program demonstrate the value of cross-sectoral partnerships to support our teachers and students. We take this opportunity to thank Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Superintendent of Education, Dr. Jenna Chiasson, the Assistant State Superintendent, and the LDOE Literacy Team for their leadership and collaboration."

The Center recognizes the value of evidence-based resources and support for school district administrators, school leaders, teachers, and families in Louisiana's efforts to improve literacy outcomes for all. "The literacy assessment data from the next few years will be crucial in gaining a full picture of the individual, local, and state efforts," said Clark Jackson. "In the meantime, we [The Center] will continue to work with parents, educators, administrators, and business and community leaders on numerous ways we can all continue to be a part of the long-term solution for improving student outcomes in literacy, early learning, and education overall," added Wyble.

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### **About The Center for Literacy & Learning**

Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022, [The Center for Literacy & Learning](https://myccl.org/) has been a leader in Louisiana and nationally in literacy and early learning since 1992. In addition to supporting K-12 educators, The Center works directly with early learning and childcare centers, community partners, and families to engage in literacy and learning from a "wraparound" perspective to improve academic outcomes of all students, lasting a lifetime.

Founded in 1992, The Center works collaboratively with stakeholders across diverse disciplines to advance literacy and learning through evidence-based practices in the classroom, home, and community. The Center for Literacy & Learning takes pride in a team of credentialed and experienced professionals who provide programs such as Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning® national institute, Science of Reading Learning Academy: Growing Reading Brains, Cornerstones CDA, Louisiana Reads!, and various other programs targeting professional educators, families, community leaders, and the public at large. The Center has trained tens of thousands of educators from Louisiana and beyond in evidence-based teaching practices. Additionally, The Center for Literacy & Learning advocates for systemic public policy reforms that reflect research in literacy and learning. Our vision is that everyone is empowered through literacy.

To learn more about The Center visit <https://myccl.org/> or follow them on Facebook [@myccl.org](https://www.facebook.com/myccl.org) and Twitter, [@ccl\\_teach](https://twitter.com/ccl_teach)