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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Center for Literacy & Learning celebrates student gains, cautions of work ahead

BATON ROUGE, LA (August 10, 2022) – Spring 2022 LEAP scores give reason to celebrate the resolve and resilience of Louisiana's teachers, educational leaders, and students as we emerge from a historic pandemic and its associated learning loss.

The Center for Literacy & Learning (The Center) joins other stakeholders in education to applaud the hard work of teachers, administrators, community partners like The Center, students, and their families as 2022 scores saw an overall increase in student achievement, including literacy, at the highest scoring level of Mastery.

While this is certainly a moment to celebrate, The Center also acknowledges that student achievement is still not at pre-pandemic levels (2019) which, at that time, were already in decline in some areas. The improvement in 2022 scores from 2021 demonstrates great promise but a closer look at the data reveals there is still much work to be done.

"First and foremost, let's celebrate our teachers across Louisiana," stated Dr. John Wyble, President & CEO of The Center for Literacy & Learning. "In the face of adversity, they remained resolute, and still do, in their profession of educating all students."

The Center's impact on these gains is quite evident as their work through the Literacy Coach Program, Science of Reading Learning Academy: Growing Reading Brains, LIT Academy, and the Plain Talk About Literacy and Learning® Institute, among others, were instrumental in providing educators with evidence-based support and training which ensures access to the most relevant, leading reading research in the world.

“These results offer a glimmer of hope in a very long journey that will require a commitment of accountability and transparency to truly experience generational reform in literacy and education overall,” cautioned Wycle.

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2022, The Center 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 where literacy and learning is continuous in order to improve academic attainment of all students, lasting a lifetime. To learn more about The Center visit www.mycll.org or follow them on Facebook @mycll.org and Twitter, @ccl_teach

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A Closer Look at the Data

As a key partner to local and state agencies on improving literacy outcomes, we took a closer look at the Grade 3 English Language Arts performance on the LEAP scores. Why Grade 3 scores? Experts identify third grade as the final year that students learn to read, after which they will be expected to read to learn course content. Research suggests that students who are not reading at grade level are at a much higher risk of dropping out of high school.

A closer look at the Grade 3 scores show that there are not consistent reductions in the percentage of students who scored “Unsatisfactory” scores. In fact, many groups show an increase in the percentage of students within these population subgroups with the “unsatisfactory” scores. Though this side-by-side comparison does not account for errors, they suggest that about 1 in 5 Louisiana students are leaving Grade 3 with ELA skills that do not even “approach basic” levels. You can find additional information in a [separate data statement](#).

About The Center for Literacy & Learning

Founded in 1992, [The Center for Literacy & Learning](#) 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.