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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Center for Literacy & Learning disappointed over 2022 NAEP scores, determined nonetheless

**BATON ROUGE, LA (September 8, 2022)** – The release of the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) long-term trend reading scores for 9-year-olds revealed the largest average score decline in over a decade. This special assessment administration has, once again, shed light on the academic effects of the pandemic.

“These results, though daunting, give us yet another reason to collectively equip teachers and students in the state of Louisiana with the tools necessary to combat the ills of pandemic learning loss” exclaims John Wyble, Chief Executive Officer of The Center.

The Center for Literacy & Learning (The Center) is a Louisiana-based, national non-profit whose mission is to advance literacy and learning through evidence-based practices in the classroom, home, and community. The Center has long championed the needs of struggling readers through professional development and advocacy efforts.

It is more important now than ever that we invest in the appropriate teacher training and ongoing support, curriculum use, teaching strategies, and family literacy engagement to move us forward. “What’s more disheartening about the latest NAEP scores is that scores for low-performing students had a steeper decline than the scores of higher-performing students. Today’s 9-year-olds spent their foundational reading skills years learning through the veil of the pandemic,” adds DeJenne’ Clark Jackson, President of The Center. “The Center will remain relentless in our efforts to ensure equitable education for all students.”

The 2022 NAEP release, like the 2021 LEAP scores, forces us to acknowledge that student achievement is not at pre-pandemic levels. “There is much work to do,” stated Dr. Wyble. “In the face of adversity, the teachers remained resolute, and still do, in their profession of educating all students.”

However, there is hope for the future. The increasing national media coverage on evidence-based literacy instruction in the [TIME](#), [New York Times](#), [New Yorker](#), and

[American Public Media](#) is heartening as the U.S schools and school systems work to help students gain the essential reading skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond. The widespread national attention on the implementation of teaching practices rooted in the science of reading has certainly made its way to Louisiana, with the latest legislative session garnering support for banning the three-cueing method from curriculum in the state. The recent Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approval of the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) literacy-focused accountability system for Kindergarten through second grade is another positive development in the systematic effort to improve reading proficiency.

Nationally, and regionally, schools, school systems, and teachers are increasingly receiving training on evidence-based strategies to teach reading and writing. It is reasonable to expect that it will take a few years for the literacy assessment data to reflect these individual, local, and state efforts. In the meantime, you, as a parent, teacher, administrator, community leader, have numerous ways to be part of the solution — informing yourself about evidence-based literacy instruction, supporting your local libraries, reading out loud to your child, advocating for adoption of literacy best practices at your school or school district, calling your state and national legislators to support comprehensive literacy bills, or supporting local nonprofits that provide literacy professional development and family literacy resources.

Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> 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 <https://myccl.org/> or follow them on Facebook @myccl.org and Twitter, @ccl\_teach

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### **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.