

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Center for Literacy & Learning Hosts Annual Literacy Day at the Capitol
Education Chairmen Recognized for their work to improve literacy in Louisiana.

The Center for Literacy & Learning hosted the annual Literacy Day at the Capitol at the Louisiana Legislature. As part of the events of the day, House Education Chairman Lance Harris and Senate Education Chairman Cleo Fields were recognized as Literacy MVPs for their work as chairmen this past term.

During the past term, Chairmen Fields and Harris played an integral role in overseeing key literacy reforms that have led to Louisiana making some gains in reading attainment. Through the literacy coach program, the Early Literacy Commission, and banning of three cueing, Louisiana has started to move forward.

Literacy Day at the Capitol is hosted by the Center for Literacy & Learning each year to raise awareness and encourage legislative involvement in raising literacy rates in Louisiana. Events during the day include recognizing legislative literacy MVPs, awareness around literacy initiatives happening across the state, and a social media campaign called “Get Caught Reading” that highlights legislators and other staff reading Louisiana themed children’s books.

On this day at the capitol, the rotunda is decorated with displays highlighting literacy programs such as Louisiana Reads!, the Center’s Literacy Coach Program, Early Childhood Coaching, Cornerstones, and the Science of Reading Academy: Growing Reading Brains.

“We know that only 1 in 4 students are reading on grade level in Louisiana and that is not acceptable,” said Dr. John Wyble, CEO of the Center for Literacy & Learning. “If we are going to reverse this statistic, it will take a holistic wraparound approach with an emphasis on family engagement to create an environment of continual learning.”

Although the Louisiana Legislature has made great strides in bringing reforms to literacy, there is still work to be done. Only 28% of Louisiana's fourth grade students are reading proficiently. Students who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school, and those who have not mastered at least a basic level of reading proficiency are nearly six times as likely to leave school without earning a diploma.

“One bright spot that has led to gains in literacy is the Literacy Coach Program that was created in 2021,” said DeJenne’ Jackson, President of the Center for Literacy & Learning. “School districts supported by the Center’s literacy coaches have outpaced other districts in gains and we hope to reach more in the coming years through this program and other wraparound services we provide.”

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About The Center for Literacy & Learning

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2022, The Center for Literacy & Learning 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://mycll.org/> or follow them on Facebook @mycll.org and Twitter, @ccl_teach