National Conference of State Legislatures

Lindsay Dolce, Chief Advancement Officer, Reading Corps and Math Corps
Reading Corps has gained national acclaim and is replicating the Minnesota model in 11 additional states and Washington D.C. Math Corps is replicated in an additional two states.
WHAT IS AMERICORPS?

SERVING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE NATION

75,000 PEOPLE STRONG
Our Vision:

ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PROFICIENT IN ALGEBRA BY 8TH GRADE.

ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PROFICIENT READERS BY 3RD GRADE.
MAKING AN IMPACT

BLENDING THE PEOPLE POWER OF AMERICORPS WITH THE SCIENCE OF WHAT WORKS

SCIENCE
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Evidence-Based Literacy Interventions
- Implementation Fidelity

SERVICE

REAL POSITIVE IMPACT

reading corps math corps
PROGRAMS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND

1,500+ TUTORS SERVING 35,000 STUDENTS ANNUALLY

700+ READING CORPS SITES

200 MATH CORPS SITES

ACTIVE IN

77 OF 87 MN COUNTIES
MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

- A promising framework for education
- Prevention focused
- Data-driven
- Uses evidence-based interventions and instruction
WHY AMERICORPS?

How national service meets the needs of struggling learners
EXPERT TRAINING & COACHING

OUR SECRET SAUCE = RECIPE FOR SUCCESS
READING CORPS: SUPPORTS AGE 3 TO GRADE 3 STUDENTS

PREK SETTINGS:

▪ Tutors are embedded in classroom and collaborate with teaching team
▪ Spend their days helping children talk, read, write, sing and play in order to develop early literacy skills and get ready for Kindergarten.
READING CORPS: SUPPORTS AGE 3 TO GRADE 3 STUDENTS

K-3 SETTINGS:

- Tutor provides one-on-one, 20-minute tutoring sessions throughout the day
- Caseload up to 15 students
- Add: Help students build foundational reading skills
WHY READING CORPS?

Learning to read

High School Graduation & College Readiness

Third Grade Reading Proficiency

Reading Corps Early Literacy Benchmark

Supporting age 3 to grade 3 students

MRC support
Core instruction only

At-risk student
What does research say is important for later reading proficiency and what works?
Birth to Year 3 Vocabulary

How income affects language learning

U.S. research has found poor families speak to their children less, with low-income children learning half as many words as high-income children by the age of 3. The researchers found early language skill was a reliable predictor for school performance later in life.

<table>
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<th>Age of Child in Months</th>
<th>Cumulative Vocabulary Words</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>22</td>
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**RESULTS**

- **High-income Children**
  - Recorded vocabulary size: 1,116
  - Average different words per hour: 297

- **Middle-income Children**
  - Recorded vocabulary size: 749
  - Average different words per hour: 216

- **Low-income Children**
  - Recorded vocabulary size: 525
  - Average different words per hour: 149

The data was collected from 42 families — 13 professional (high income families), 23 working class families (middle/low income), and 6 families on welfare (low income).

GAPS START EARLY AND CONTINUE

K-3 Achievement
Early Predictors of Later Reading Comprehension

The ability to listen, speak, read, and write

- Oral Language is comprised of language comprehension (listen) and production (speak).
- Literacy is comprised of decoding (reading) and encoding (writing).
“ACTIVE INGREDIENTS”

EARLY ORAL LANGUAGE AND LITERACY INSTRUCTION

- Continuous assessments of child’s progress
- Differentiated instruction
- Small group instruction
- Active book reading and conversation (*start early*)
- Parent engagement (*start early*)
- Ongoing support for teachers for children’s specific skill development (coaching, professional development)
Goal:
Estimate the impact of the PreK and K-3 program on key literacy outcomes
Reading Corps is helping close the achievement gap. Students of color, students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, and English Language Learners are achieving outcomes equal to or better than their peers. In fact, those with higher risk factors actually made stronger gains.

The model is effective in any setting – urban, suburban, and rural.

Expert literacy coaching and training in data-based decision making ensure that tutors are successful regardless of their educational background.
A GROWING EVIDENCE BASE

PreK
- Outperformed their peers on the five key measures of early literacy – Picture Names, Rhyming, Alliteration, Letter Sounds, and Letter Names.

Kindergarten
- Correctly identified nearly 11 more letter sounds in one minute after one semester.

First Grade
- Achieved significantly higher reading scores after one semester.

Second and Third Grade
- Attained significantly higher oral reading fluency scores.
READING CORPS IMPROVES EARLY READING SKILLS FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS, THE EQUIVALENT OF A HALF YEAR TO ALMOST A FULL YEAR OF EXTRA SCHOOL.*

* Evaluations by NORC at the University of Chicago
SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

$9 MILLION
Projected annual savings for Minnesota

Students who participate in Reading Corps are nearly 3x less likely to be referred to special education compared to non-participants.
WE KNOW WHAT WORKS
MATH CORPS: SUPPORTS 4TH – 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

- Tutor provides tutoring to pairs of students throughout the day.
- Students receive 90 minutes of tutoring each week
- Help students build foundational math skills
**WHY MATH?**


<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Basic</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
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<td>42</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>18*</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>26*</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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* Significantly different (p < .05) from 2013.

NOTE: Accommodations were not permitted in NAEP mathematics assessments prior to 1996. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.


Only 42% of students demonstrate *proficient* math skills
Goal:
Estimate the impact of Math Corps on key math skills
A GROWING EVIDENCE BASE

- Math Corps students in grades 4-8 made gains in math skills that were significantly larger than students who did not receive Math Corps support.
- Math Corps students are accelerating their progress in every grade.
Kindergarten Readiness
(PreK Reading Corps + Numeracy)
**CONTENT:** Number and Operations Understanding

### Assessment

- **All students**
  - Broad Test (< 5 min)
  - **Goal:** Benchmark and monitor progress for all students. Entry and exit.

### Intervention

#### I: "Math Talk"
- **What:** Strategies for incorporating math concepts into everyday interactions
- **Delivered by:** Member & teacher

#### II: Core Instruction (flexible groups)
- **What:** Math Read Aloud + Numeracy Activities
- **Delivered by:** Member and/or teacher

#### III: Tier II-III Instruction
- **What:** Individualized, sequenced, activities designed for small group or 1:1 interactions. Informed by assessment.
- **Delivered by:** Member
Kindergarten Readiness: Results

Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro
✓ 29 Classrooms
✓ 506 Students

“Comparison” students
✓ 124 suburban students
CLOSING THE GAP

Percentage Meeting Age-level Math Benchmark

- Fall 29%
- Winter 60%
- Spring 72%

Comparison: 47% → 68%
K-Ready Pilot: 47% → 72%
Examining low performers

- Fall: Treatment 0%, Comparison 0%
- Spring: Treatment 36%, Comparison 20%
- Fall: Treatment 0%, Comparison 0%
- Spring: Treatment 68%, Comparison 36%
Closing the gap

- Treatment (Black or African American)
- Comparison (White)

Fall:
- Treatment: 18%
- Comparison: 56%

Spring:
- Treatment: 66%
- Comparison: 71%
RESULTS OF MATH CORPS

The graph illustrates the progress of students assigned to Math Corps compared to those in the control group and the nationally normed growth. The difference of 20 scaled growth score points between students in the control group and those assigned to Math Corps is noted, indicating that students in the control group will not reach this point until nearly 3 months in the future.
MATH CORPS STUDENTS WERE 2X MORE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE MATH FACT FLUENCY AND MEET END-OF-YEAR MATH BENCHMARKS.*
QUESTIONS?

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