

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES :

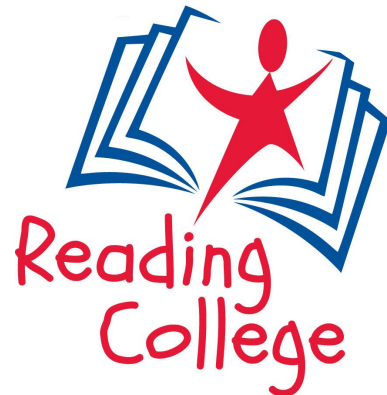
Examining the impacts of a
Summer Reading Program

Presentation to CASS

March 21, 2025

10:45 - 12:00

Edmonton, AB



Introductions



Dan Lower

Deputy Superintendent
Red Deer Public Schools



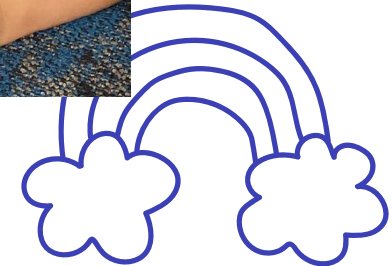
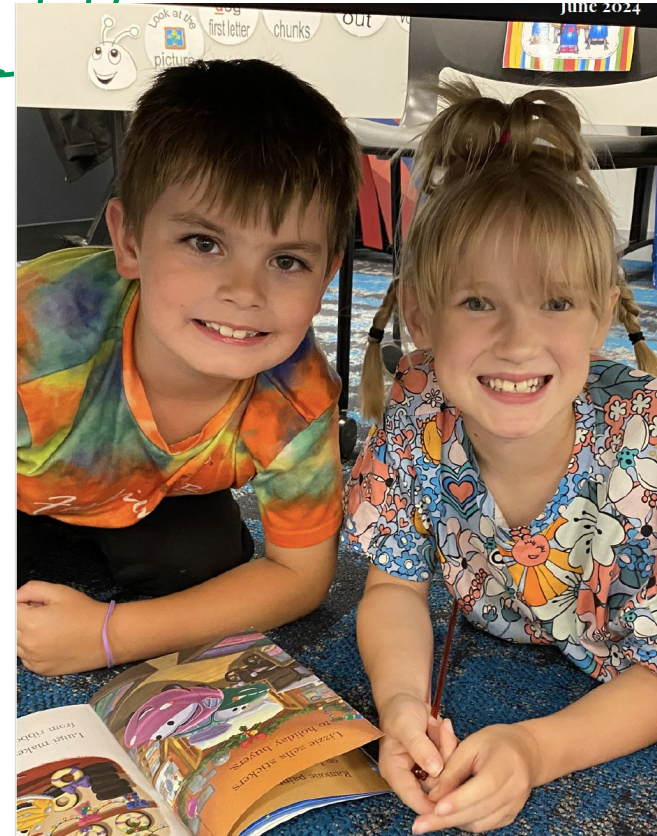
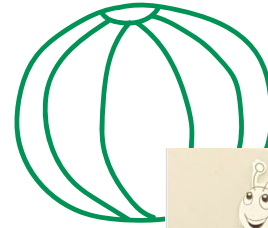
Dr. Julia Rheaume

Associate Dean,
Red Deer Polytechnic
Primary Investigator



Sherri Jansen

Literacy Coordinator
Red Deer Public Schools





SLQS



Professional Practice Standards

- **Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard (SLQS)**
 - Visionary Leadership
 - Leading Learning
- **Leadership Quality Standard (LQS)**
 - Embodying Visionary Leadership
 - Leading a Learning Community



LQS

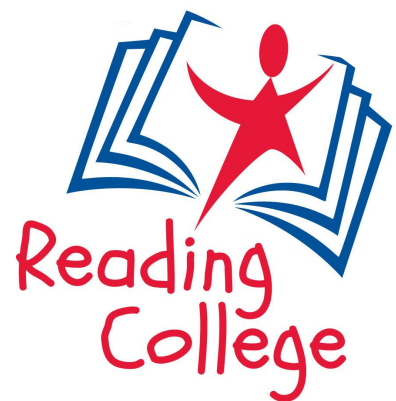
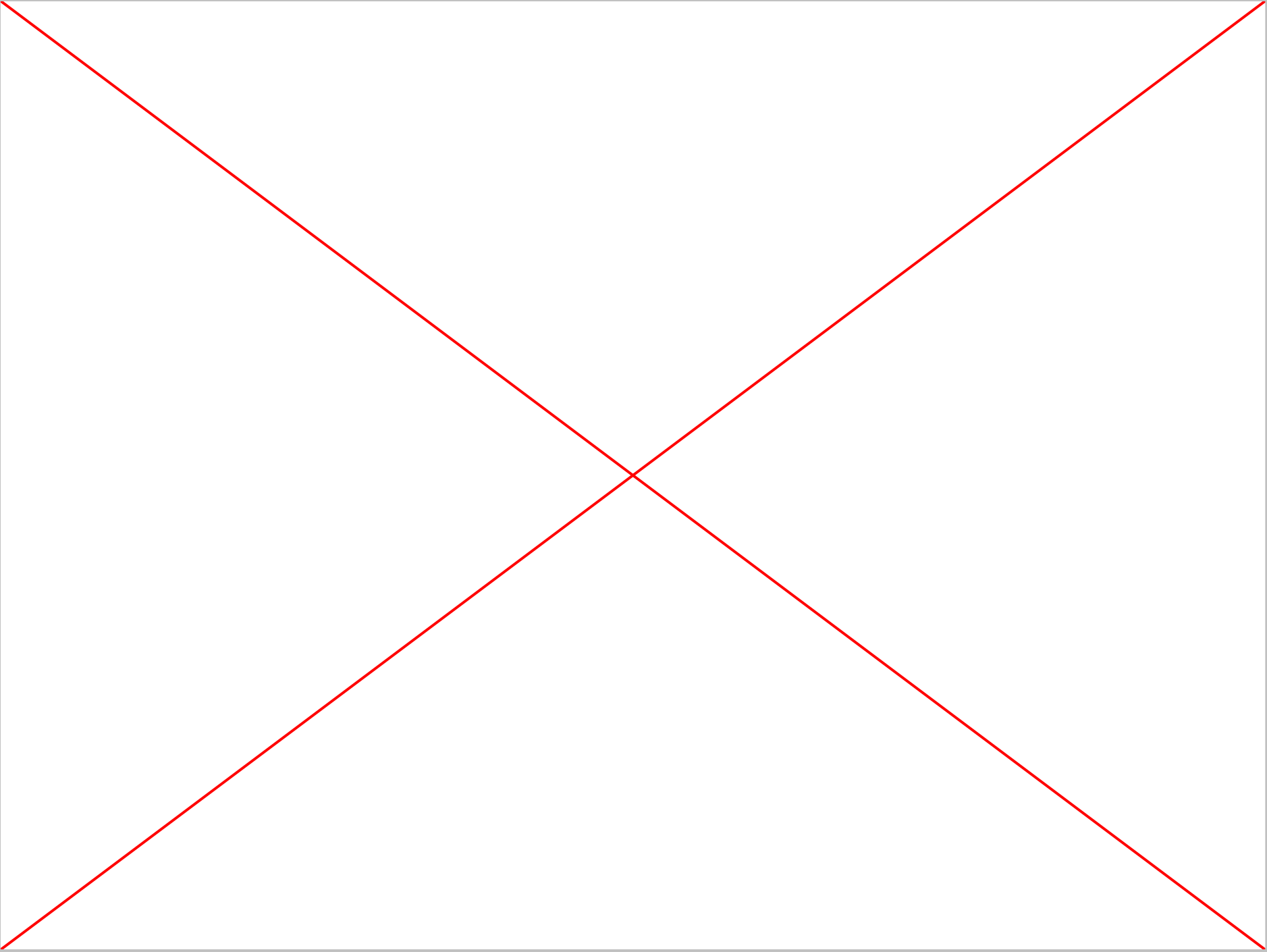




AGENDA

- 1. Introduction of Reading College**
- 2. Discuss some key components of Reading College and refinements to programming.**
- 3. Present Research Findings**
- 4. Offer System-Level Considerations for Leaders**
- 5. Answer questions/get feedback**





The Reading College - 5Ws

✓ The What

A Summer Reading
Program

✓ The Who

Gr. 2 students who aren't
reading at grade level

✓ The When

20 days in July

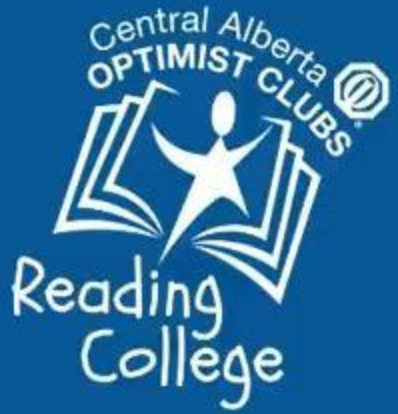
✓ The Where

Red Deer Polytechnic Campus

✓ The Why

Building brighter futures





Why does Reading College matter?



**Your
wonderings?**

**What did you hope to learn by
attending this session?**

or

**What questions do you want to
make sure get answered?**





RDPSD Literacy Framework



- High-Leverage Teaching Strategies
- Aligned with the Science of Reading
- The Five Pillars of Reading
- Assessment to Guide Instruction
- Systematic Writing Instruction





Evolving Pedagogy



2012

Balanced Literacy

Incidental Phonics

Levelled Readers

Cueing System

Minimal Phonemic Awareness

Fountas & Pinnell

➤ **2025**

➤ **Structured Literacy**

➤ **Systematic, Explicit Phonics**

➤ **Decodable Texts**

➤ **Focus on Direct Decoding**

➤ **Heggerty PA Program**

➤ **Alberta Ed. Assessments**



Daily Literacy Routines AM

✓ Word Work - 1 Hour

- Phonics
 - UFLI Lessons
 - Secret Stories
- High-Frequency Words
 - Heart Words
- Phonemic Awareness
 - Heggerty



✓ Reading - 1 Hour

- Focus on Decodable Texts
- Scholastic Short-Read Decodables
- Literacy Place Resources
- Interactive Read-Alouds
- Building Comprehension Skills & Vocabulary

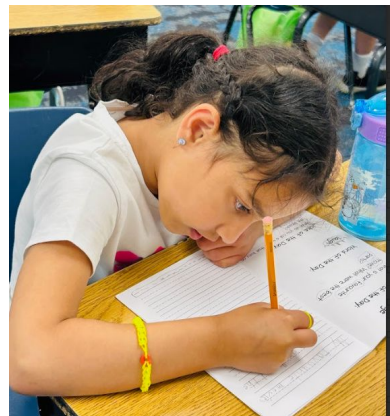


✓ Fluency - Infused Throughout

- High-Frequency Heart Words
- Reader's Theatre
- Choral Reading
- Word Games

✓ Writing - 1 Hour

- Sentence Structure
- Daily Journal
- Response to Literature
- Empowering Writers Resource



Experiential Learning Activities PM

● Sports

- Interactive Games
- Golf
- Rugby
- Dance Magic
- Karate
- Indigenous Games



● Guest Presenters

- Red Deer Woodchucks
- Sigmund Brouwer- Author Visit
- RDP Rodeo Team
- Acrobatics



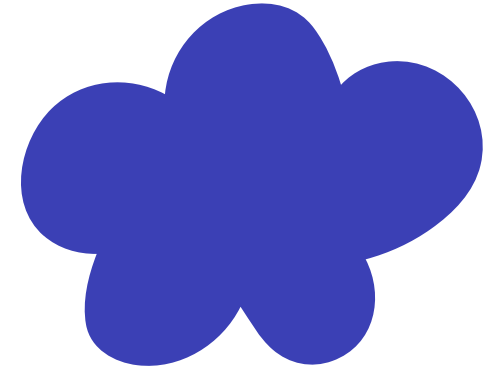
● RDP Department Tours

- Automotive
- Culinary
- Costume & Props
- Residence
- Library - Makerspace
- Summer Arts Series - pottery, painting, crafts
- Nursing Simulation Lab

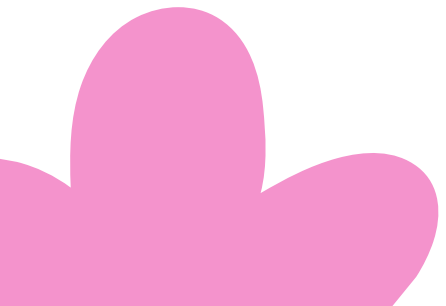


**Future Vision
for
Reading
College**

- Expanding the Program
- EAL Learners Cohort
- Technology

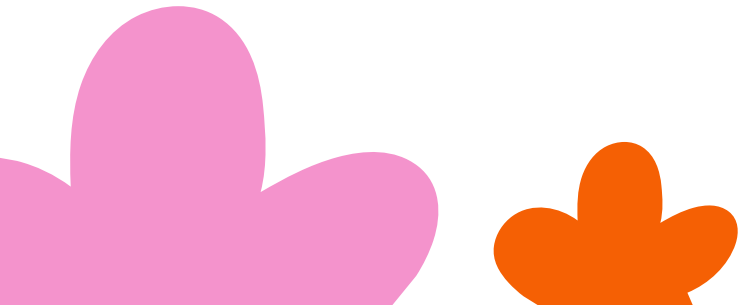


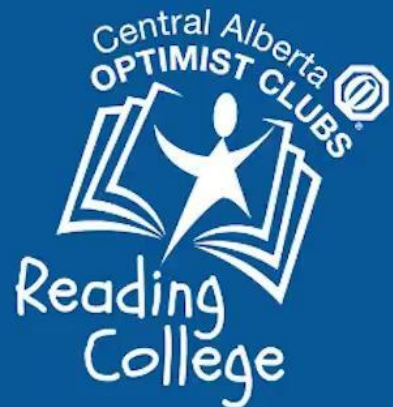
How could we enhance the Reading College experience for students?



New Teacher Mentorship

- Retired teachers & new grads
- 4 days of training & team building
- Mentor teachers plan lessons
- Opportunities for new teachers to observe master teachers
- Weekly Collaboration Meetings





**What inspired you to be part of
the Reading College program?**





Research Project



Research Questions:

- What are the impacts of Reading College on elementary literacy achievement?
- What are the important features of Reading College?



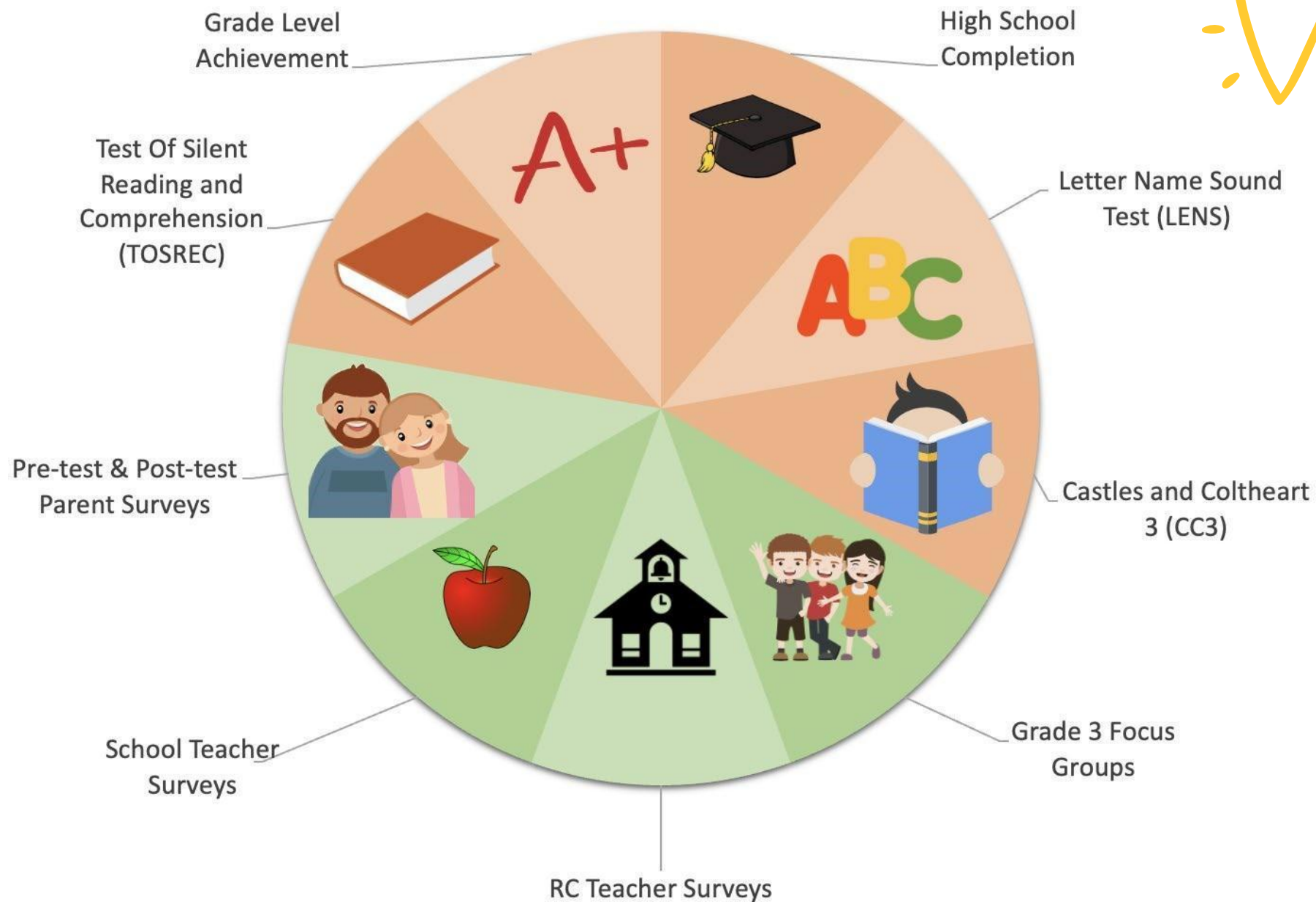
Data Sources



Quantitative Data



Qualitative Data





Literacy Achievement: Quantitative Findings



Castle & Coltheart (CC3) Reading Test

Pre & Post Test: June and September 2023



Regular Words

Effect Size = 0.435



Irregular Words

Effect Size = 0.976

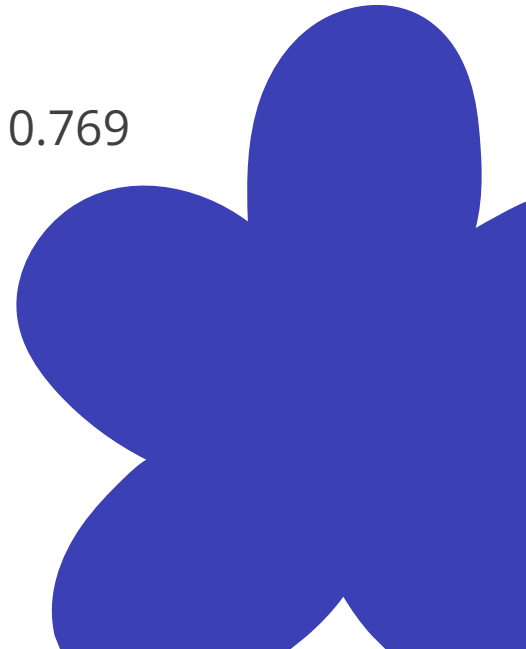


Non-Words

Effect Size = 0.769



78% of students saw an increase in CC3 scores after attending Reading College



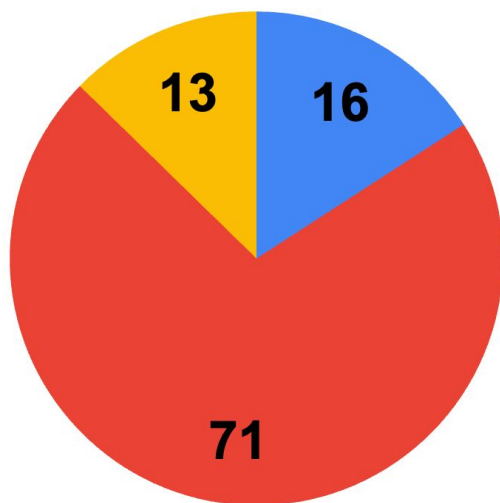
Literacy Achievement



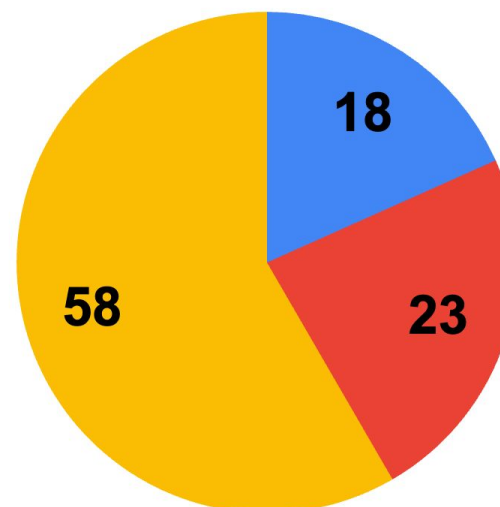
English Language Arts Report Cards

June and November 2023, Fluency

**Pre-Reading College
(June 2023)**



**Post-Reading College
(November 2023)**

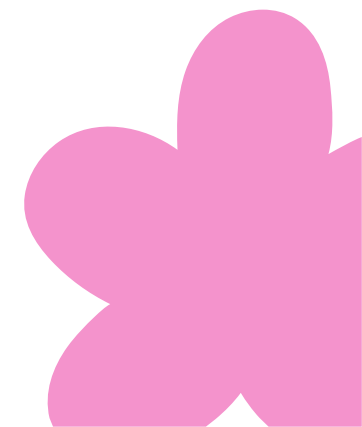


LEGEND

- % Beginning
- % Approaching
- % Achieving



45% increase in reading fluency at grade level



Literacy Achievement



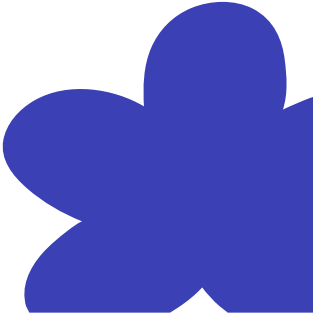
English Language Arts Report Cards

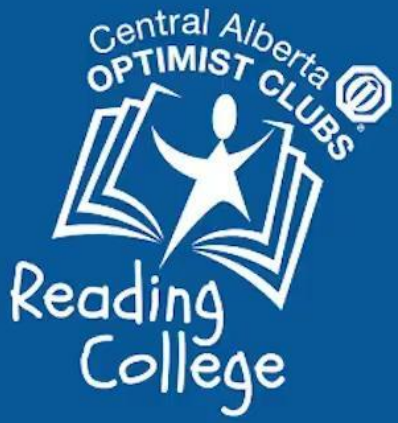
June 2022 and 2023, Fluency

Report Card Assessment	End of Grade 2 (June 2022)	End of Grade 3 (June 2023)
Reading College Participants (n=55)		
Grade Level Peers (n=534)		

LEGEND

- % Beginning
- % Approaching
- % Achieving





**How has Reading College helped you with
your reading and writing?**





Literacy Achievement: Qualitative Findings



Students

The book's kinda making sense and it's not just a bunch of random words that are put together. (Meg)



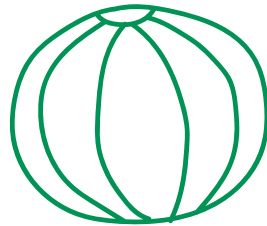
Teachers

As students gain confidence and skill in reading, their love of reading increases. (Drew)




Classroom Teachers

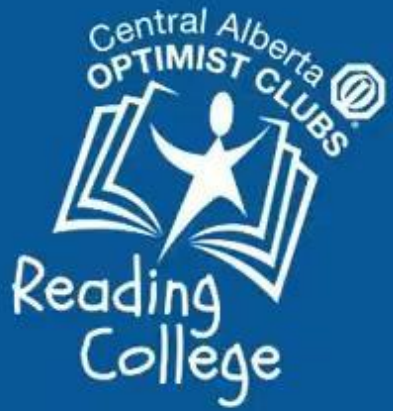
(Student) has absolutely FLOURISHED from her time at Reading College!! Her reading and writing improved tremendously!



Parents

The difference reading college made was incredible! Her confidence in reading and writing has soared from where she was before.





**What was your child's experience
at Reading College?**



Reading College: Important Features

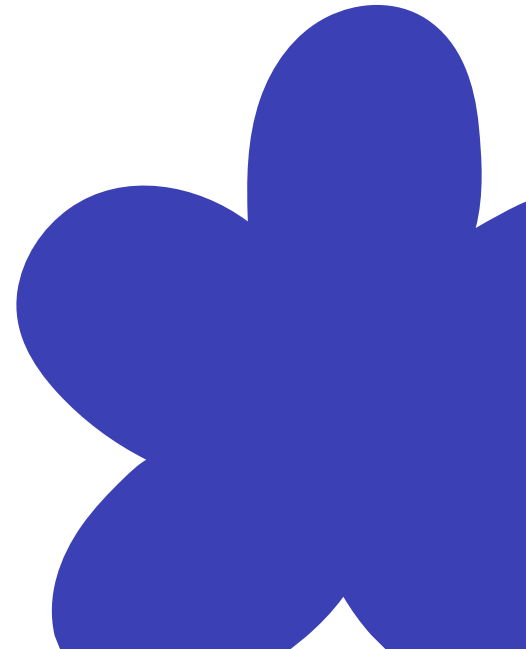
Program Content

- Variety of resources
- Game-based, fun instruction
- Varied ways to read
- Engaging, novel experiences



Program Design

- Routines + Adventures
- Small, similar-ability classes
- Teacher mentorship
- Reducing barriers





**Your
wonderings?**

**Any questions about the
research project and the
impacts of Reading College?**



The How:

Considerations for System Leaders

1. Program Goals and Objectives
2. Logistics & Structure
3. Resources & Partnerships
4. Staffing & Training
5. Student Engagement & Accessibility
6. Assessment & Impact



Review of participant questions from Mentimeter

Questions?



THANK YOU



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