Given that early social performance and academic achievement are predictors of later school success, ensuring that children get off to a good start in kindergarten is critical.\(^1\) Fewer than half (48%) of children who live below the poverty line are ready for kindergarten, compared to three-fourths (75%) of children who come from homes earning middle to high family incomes.\(^2\)

**What We Know...**

1. The educational achievement gap starts well before kindergarten. Disparities in language development emerge in infancy and widen in toddlerhood. The most effective solution is to prevent the achievement gap before it starts.

2. Early language abilities are directly related to later reading abilities. Today, only 77% of Arizona’s third-graders are proficient in reading.\(^3\) In Read On Phoenix target areas, fewer than 60% of third-graders are proficient.

3. Third grade reading proficiency is an important indicator for future success. In fact, third grade students who are not proficient in reading are four times more likely to drop out of high school.\(^4\)


\(^3\) SOURCE: Arizona Department of Education, Arizona’s Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS), Reading Assessment, 2013.

Read On Arizona is a public/private collaboration committed to building an early literacy system that improves language and literacy outcomes for Arizona’s children from birth through age eight—delivering the right program at the right time to every child.

To Join the Effort Visit: ReadOnArizona.org

**Visionary Community Goals**

- Ensure every child entering school is ready for school success by increasing the % of children demonstrating school readiness in language and literacy at kindergarten entry.
- Ensure every student is on track for college, career, and life success by increasing the % of students reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade to 100%.
- Driving change through capacity building, group solutions, continuous instructional improvement, and integrated and coordinated systems.

Read On Phoenix will engage parents, businesses, and the community by addressing four key areas:

- School readiness
- Summer learning loss
- Afterschool literacy enrichment
- Volunteerism

Read On Phoenix’s first year focuses on Early Childhood Education programs, library programs, and select after school programs in Balsz, Riverside, Roosevelt, Fowler, Murphy, and other high need school districts.

For more information visit www.ReadOnPhoenix.org

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**2013/2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

For more information visit: Read On Arizona.org and Read On Phoenix.org

**Friday, November 8, 2013**
11:30am Early Literacy Summit at Channel 8 Studio/Arizona PBS

**November to December 2013**

- **November**
  - 11/14/13 Flagstaff Commission on Excellence in Education
  - 11/15/13 Arizona Library Association Conference
  - 11/20/13 Arizona Department of Education Mega Conference (Family Engagement)

- **December**
  - 12/7/13 Festival of Tales, Paradise Valley Community College

**January to March 2014**

- **January**
  - 3/3/14 Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day

- **March**
  - Early Childhood Fair hosted by First Things First (Flagstaff)

**April 2014 to June 2014**

- **April**
  - 5/12 to 5/18/14 National Children’s Book Week

- **June**
  - Arizona Summer Reading Collaborative
  - National Summer Learning Day
  - Arizona Department of Education Leading Change Statewide Education Conference (Tucson)
  - KinderCamp Kickoff Event (Flagstaff)

**July 2014 to September 2014**

- **August**
  - First Things First Statewide Early Childhood Summit

- **September**
  - Attendance Awareness Month
  - International Literacy Day

**October 2014 to December 2014**

- **October**
  - Family Reading Day

- **November**
  - 11/1/14 Family Reading Day