

# The River Region Bold Goal Coalition is a community-wide effort to increase the number of students reading proficiently by the end of the third grade.

Third grade is when students make the leap from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."

Across the River Region, more than half of fourth-grade students are struggling to read.

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Autauga County
41% not proficient
in reading



Elmore County 45% not proficient in reading



Lowndes County
78% not proficient
in reading



Macon County
77% not proficient
in reading



Montgomery County 66% not proficient in reading

Alabama State Department of Education, 2018-2019 Scantron test results

A student's ability to read at the end of third grade is a strong predictor of that child's future success. Students who continue to struggle after third grade are:



More likely to struggle in middle school and high school



Less likely to graduate from high school



Less likely to be college- and careerready

Alabama Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Recommendations Report, 2020

Increasing the number of students reading successfully by the end of the third grade is vital for the River Region to thrive.

We can change the trajectory of children's lives in the River Region.

It will take all of us working together, aligning our efforts, and developing shared community goals and solutions.



River Region United Way

## The River Region Bold Goal Coalition is built on a simple premise: Working together, rather than apart, we can have a bigger, bolder impact.

Launched by River Region United Way, the Bold Goal Coalition brings together the people, organizations and projects that support children and families during the first eight years of a child's life. Bold Goal partners will continue to do what they do best while identifying community-based solutions to shared challenges. Together, we will tackle the root causes that keep children in our communities from reading proficiently. We will drive systemic changes to help every child succeed.

### Our work is driven by five principles:



#### **CONVENE**

The Bold Goal Coalition brings together community leaders and groups to learn from each other, identify actionable benchmarks, and further our impact beyond what we could do on our own.



#### LINK

The Bold Goal Coalition links the unique missions of our partner organizations around a shared community-wide vision.



#### **MEASURE**

The Bold Goal Coalition shares data about our area's children and the results of our collective impact. We track milestones that will bring us closer to our Bold Goal of every child reading proficiently by the end of the third grade.



#### **INVEST**

The Bold Goal Coalition will identify and provide the resources needed to support new and ongoing results-focused efforts.



#### **ADVOCATE**

The Bold Goal Coalition advocates for policy solutions and strategic public investments that drive systemic change.



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