

GREATER BOSTON IS FACING A LITERACY CRISIS

Over 60% of students in our area are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Students who are not meeting literacy benchmarks by the 4th grade are 4 times more likely to drop out of high school.

Literacy is the vehicle to other learning, and yet far too many children lack the fundamental skills to learn.

LITERACY IS THE KEY TO LIFELONG SUCCESS

Through intergenerational mentoring relationships, our older adult volunteer literacy coaches are helping struggling young readers improve academic outcomes

→ **Small Group Tutoring:**

One volunteer tutor is matched with groups of 2-3 students that meet on a routine basis, twice a week for 20 minutes per session.

Sessions provide key supplemental literacy support.

→ **Time for Teachers:**

Teachers have more time to meet with the most at-risk students while a volunteer supports literacy instruction for students served.



Research shows that without a high school diploma students will earn significantly less than their peers, be encumbered with more health problems, and have a shorter life expectancy.

In our program:

- ❖ On average, **students improve by 1.5 reading levels** over the course of the school year
- ❖ **74% of students** who were below grade level at the beginning of the year **improved their literacy performance**
- ❖ **89% of students display improvement** in concentration, motivation, self-confidence, or participation within the classroom