



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

WA Reading Corps

1. **Purpose:**

The mission of the Washington Reading Corps (WRC) is to improve the reading abilities of young students in grades PK–5 across Washington State through research-based tutoring strategies. The WRC supports struggling readers through effective collaborations among schools, families, community members, national service, businesses, and state partners.

2. **Description of services provided:**

In **2022-23** WRC schools, community centers, and early learning sites received the support of **26** AmeriCorps national service members (WRC members) who provide:

- **Tutoring and Early Childhood Development:** WRC members and volunteers work with students, grades PK–5, identified as needing reading assistance and/or reading readiness skills and children in early learning centers to increase kindergarten preparedness through one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions.
- **Volunteer Generation:** WRC members assist schools and early learning sites to recruit, train, manage, and recognize volunteers. Volunteers provide one-on-one and small group tutoring in reading and reading readiness before, during, and after school during the school year.
- **Family Involvement:** WRC members organize family involvement activities that support literacy improvement in the home, school, and community and develop a family involvement plan. These family activities involve students identified as struggling readers and their parents and/or caregivers.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

WRC schools are selected through a competitive process that evaluates past performance with implementing the WRC program, and/or readiness to benefit from the placement of WRC members to support literacy development. Priority is given to schools that have a high free and reduced lunch population and have been identified for additional support through state and federal guidelines.

Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	9
Number of Schools:	21
Number of Students:	201
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	1 – Community Based Organization



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4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$950,000	\$654,800
2022	\$950,000	\$934,086
2021	\$950,000	\$429,537
2020	\$950,000	\$914,504
2019	\$950,000	\$839,839

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of AmeriCorps	Number of Other
FY23	9	21	201	26	1
FY22	14	21	526	52	6
FY21	18	32	249	43	N/A
FY20	26	58	2,612	85	N/A
FY19	38	73	4,605	131	1,736
FY18	46	108	4,639	150	2,757
FY17	39	89	4,133	150	2,760
FY16	42	74	3,935	153	1,307
FY15	47	66	4,678	128	3,890
FY14	24	56	3,746	56	936
FY13	48	100	8,063	260	3,746
FY12	50	92	6,512	260	N/A

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

Programmatic changes since inception (if any): Starting in FY 2006, direct grant funding was no longer provided directly to schools, due to a reduction in WRC state funding. Prior to FY 2006, schools received minimal state grant funds from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for program implementation (including assessment materials), in addition to the services provided by their AmeriCorps members.



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The WRC was not awarded the federal grant in 2013, greatly reducing the number of members for the state. The WRC applied for and received 56 unfunded slots from CNCS to provide member services with the Washington state funding and school match for 2013–14.

In the 2021–22 school year, changes occurred in the program to increase the rigor of member and volunteer training informed by the Science of Reading. OSPI provided technical assistance to the program, developed early learning partnerships, enhanced involvement of WRC members in schools with parent/family literacy events, and provided support for the recruitment of community volunteers and their involvement in tutoring and literacy development.

In 2022–2023, no significant programmatic changes occurred, and the “Reading Power” tutoring program was maintained.

8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Washington Service Corps, in partnership with OSPI staff, saw the implementation of the “Reading Power” tutoring program for grades K-4. Washington Reading Corps members were trained and coached on using the “Reading Power” program. This year, an ESD contractor collaborated with WRC to train service members in “Reading Power”.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

The WRC program faces challenges in recruiting service members. Also, schools must pay a fee for agreeing to host WRC Service Members.

10. Future opportunities:

To better meet the intended purpose, OSPI and WRC partners will focus on pathways for service members to become educators in Washington state. Member recruitment and retention strategies are being developed, including incorporating pathways to careers in education through professional development and certification opportunities during the member service experience.

After the results of the program impact study are released, the Employment Security Department and Washington Reading Corps staff will continue to refine and elevate the Reading Corps Program and resources.

WRC recruitment updates will be made to programming for the following year. The update includes an expansion from K-4 student populations to a broader K-12 student population with a focus on high impact, literacy informed, tutoring across content areas.



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11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

\$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for the Washington reading corps. The superintendent shall allocate reading corps members to schools identified for comprehensive or targeted support and school districts that are implementing comprehensive, proven, research-based reading programs. Two or more schools may combine their Washington reading corps programs.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

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14. **Program Contact Information:**

Name: Carey Kirkwood
Title: Associate Director of Elementary English Language Arts
Phone: 360-995-3235
Email: carey.kirkwood@k12.wa.us