

ReadingPals is a **statewide early literacy initiative** of The Children's Movement of Florida that provides volunteer mentors for pre-K to 3rd grade students who may need extra help.

Early Literacy

To improve students' vocabulary and understanding of the fundamental building blocks of early literacy



Mentorship

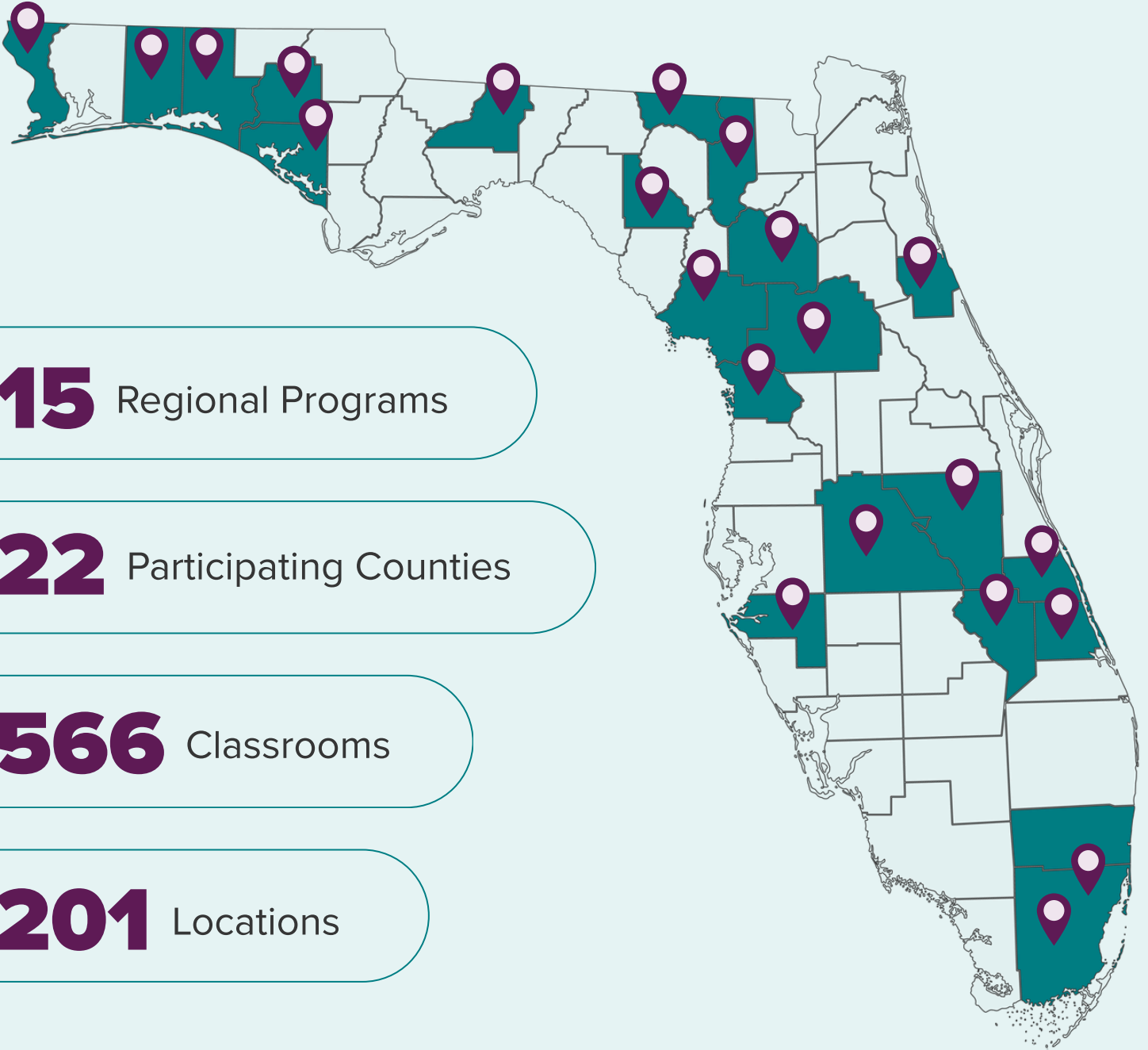
To strengthen confidence, self-awareness, and empathy through a consistent relationship between mentors and students

Love of Reading

To reinforce a love of reading with high-quality books and engaging activities



Thanks to local partners and volunteers, ReadingPals now spans:



15 Regional Programs

22 Participating Counties

566 Classrooms

201 Locations

Collectively in 2024–2025, ReadingPals programs more than matched their base grants with local funds, **effectively doubling statewide investment in the program.**



ReadingPals mentors supported **3,219 students** this year from pre-K through 3rd grade. Each student took home an average of 15 books for their home libraries.

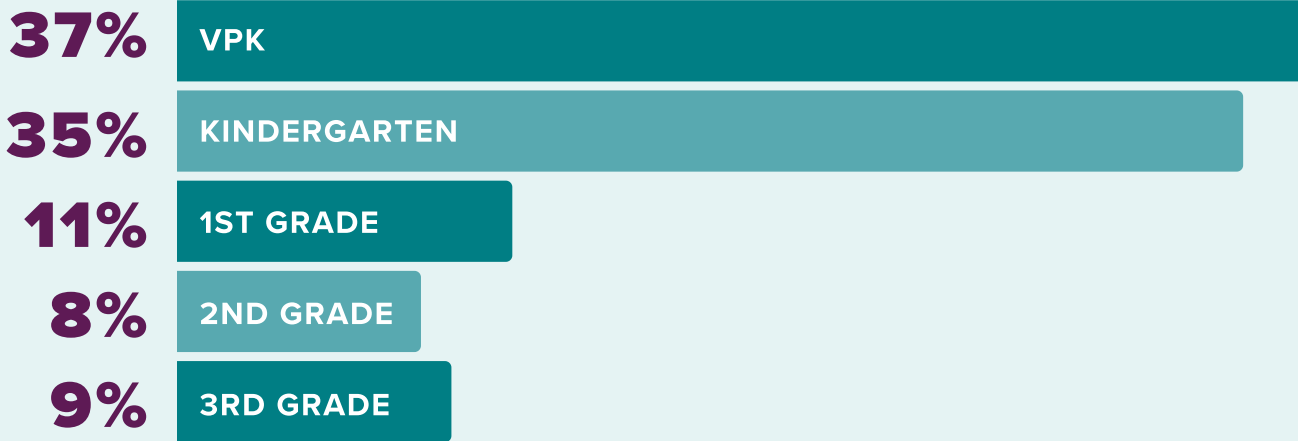
3,129

Students Matched



Student Participation by Grade

2024-2025



Nearly three-quarters of ReadingPals students are in VPK or kindergarten. These are the years when children's brains are most receptive to language and literacy growth—**making early intervention a powerful way to close learning gaps** before they start.

17.6

Average Reading Sessions Per Student

15

Average Take Home Books Per Student



1,707

Volunteer Mentors

51%

Returning Volunteers

20%

Returning Volunteers
2+ Years in Program

Volunteer Demographics

54%

RETIRED

32%

WORKING

10%

STUDENTS

4%

OTHER



YOU can be part of this impact. Volunteer as a ReadingPal or help spread the word so more children have the chance to read, learn, and thrive.



Scan the QR code or click the link below to learn more.

CLICK HERE



Learning and Connecting from Coast to Coast



Coordinators across 15 regional programs gathered at the **2025 ReadingPals Celebration Dinner** to share common successes and challenges, celebrate the program's 13-year legacy, and prepare for the next school year. Together, the group honored early literacy mentors and regional programs who are actively shaping children's futures through reading and relationships.

**Congratulations to our standout
ReadingPals coordinator for 2025!**



Ruthie Teets

ReadingPals Program
Manager, United Way
of Central Florida



**ReadingPals
Spotlight 2025**

Broward County has the
fastest growing program



For the 4th consecutive year, we held our statewide virtual conference & celebration as we concluded our 13th year of ReadingPals!



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jason Yeatman, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Education, Pediatrics,
and Psychology Stanford University

Dr. Jason Yeatman offered a cutting-edge exploration of the neurobiology of literacy—examining how the brain learns to read, why some children struggle, and the vital role of brain plasticity in early literacy development. Drawing on neuroimaging research from Stanford's Brain Development and Education Lab, he explained how reading instruction shapes brain circuitry and highlight targeted intervention strategies to support diverse learners effectively.

[VIEW THE FULL 75-MINUTE PROGRAM](#)



The Children's Movement proudly joined **Children's Week 2025** connecting with hundreds of families, educators, advocates, and lawmakers throughout Tallahassee. Outside the Capitol, the ReadingPals booth welcomed visitors of all ages to explore early learning resources, share stories, and celebrate the joy of reading together.

