



PRESS RELEASE

WNY EDUCATION ALLIANCE PUBLISHES THE 'WNY READING REPORT CARD'

The WNY Reading Report Card Tracks Reading Proficiency Scores for Economically Disadvantaged Students in All WNY School Districts

Buffalo, March 13, 2023 – The WNY Education Alliance is pleased to announce that it has published its first annual *WNY Reading Report Card*. A copy of the report can be found using the link [here](#).

The *WNY Reading Report Card* tracks reading proficiency scores for economically disadvantaged students in grades 3-5 for all school districts in Western New York. The report aims to measure the effectiveness of reading instruction in schools by focusing on reading proficiency data for the least resourced students who have access to fewer supports outside of school.

The goal of the report is to provide transparency into the reading programs being used in local schools and the effectiveness of those instructional programs. Future reports will highlight the ELA curricula used in schools, progress being made toward implementing structured literacy, and the resulting changes in reading proficiency scores for economically disadvantaged students.

Tarja Parssinen, founder of the WNY Education Alliance, commented: “With less than 30% of economically disadvantaged students in Western New York reading proficiently, the data shows that we have a reading crisis in our region which impacts children in urban, suburban, and rural districts alike. Part of the problem lies in the way in which reading is being taught in many schools. The current approach does not work well for economically disadvantaged students, English Language learners (ELLs), minorities, and children with dyslexia. The good news is that there is a lot of research which explains how children learn to read and plenty of examples that show what can be done in schools to improve reading proficiency. This report is intended to continue the important conversation about what the various stakeholders can do to improve reading instruction in schools and literacy rates in Western New York. Many schools in the



region are in various stages of changing from ‘balanced’ literacy to structured literacy and this report will track the impact of those changes over time.”

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About:

The WNY Education Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to improving education in the Western New York area through advocacy, community engagement, and strategic partnerships.

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