

James Patterson Literacy Challenge Phase 2: Advancing the Trajectory of Reading Proficiency

The successful first phase of the James Patterson Literacy Challenge (JPLC) was built largely around in-depth, face-to-face literacy training for teachers from low-performing schools, including intensive professional development and coaching, as well as ongoing, on-site expert support for schools as they adopt our evidence-based curricula and instructional methods. Additionally, the implementation of the Literacy Matrix (an evidence-based, online professional development tool for teachers to learn the key concepts in reading) broadened the overall reach and scope of our work. Results showed that students of teachers who participated in the Literacy Matrix demonstrated significant improvement in their reading skills in phonological awareness and decoding.

Given the demonstrated success of the first phase of the JPLC, we have a clear path forward to further boost childhood literacy rates across the state. The JPLC must scale to include as many districts and schools as possible, creating a statewide network of support for teachers and leaders. Phase 2 of the JPLC will enhance, broaden, and scale-up our work in three primary tiers:

Tier 1: Bolstering the Literacy Matrix

- Including additional strands that support foundational literacy (e.g., data-based decision making, writing)
- Enhancing support layers (i.e., grade-level specific resources and support for coaches and principals)

Tier 2: Developing and Disseminating a Leadership for Literacy Professional Development Model and Network

- School-based and district-based coaches and administrators to support teachers in implementing effective reading pedagogy

Tier 3: Expand the Deep, School-Based Work

- Expand to more (~5-10) districts and/or more schools in current districts to support more struggling schools and drive system-wide innovation based on fieldwork.