



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

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Tyisha Walker-Myers
President
New Haven Board of Alders
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: Order of the New Haven Board of Alders, appropriating \$3 million from the American Rescue Plan act to provide literacy and math tutoring to New Haven public school students.

Madame President:

Respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Board of Alders, please find enclosed the Administration's request for the use of \$3 MM from the American Rescue Plan funding for the sole purpose of improving reading and math skills through individual tutoring to New Haven students.

Data from national test results released this year showed in stark terms the pandemic's devastating effects on students across the country, with the scores of 9-year-olds in math and reading dropping to the levels from twenty-years ago. This year, for the first time since the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests began tracking student achievement in the 1970s, 9-year-olds lost ground in math, and scores in reading fell by the largest margin in more than 30 years.

Long-term studies have found that students who were not proficient in reading by the end of third grade were around four times more likely to be high school drop-outs than proficient readers. In fact, 88 percent of students who failed to earn a high school diploma were struggling readers in third grade.

Locally, **last year only 16% of New Haven 3rd graders were at grade level in reading.** That's about 1 in 6 third graders reading at grade level. To change this downward direction will require interventions within the schools, support for New Haven families, and engaging the City's communities.

To help combat the loss of time-on-task, lack of classroom time, and the social-academic isolation caused by the pandemic, the City would issue an RFP to partner with an organization, or organizations, to create a robust, common-sense literacy and math tutoring program aimed at New Haven students from grade levels 1 through 5.

Ideally, the elements of the program will:

- Start in early 2023 and run through the summer of 2025;
- Develop broad engagement of diverse partners within the city's communities;
- Recruit and hire organizational staff; paid interns, high school and college students; and volunteer tutors to reach capacity to serve between 1,000 to 1,500 students from grades 1 through 5;
- Identify and implement evidence-based curricula which could be used in the tutoring program by individuals that are not classroom teachers or those that do not have an academic background in pedagogy;
- Provide training for staff and tutors for any participating organization through in-person training, written materials and videos while investing in a train-the-trainers approach to allow each organization to train their own staff and volunteers.
- Continue tutoring after the end of the NHPS academic year throughout summer, and work in concert with YARD, NHPS summer camps and other organizations providing summer enrichment activities;
- Plan and host Family Literacy Nights that provide coaching for families around literacy strategies; practice with kids; and fun, relationship-building activities; and
- Develop and implement technologies to further literacy in the home and ensuring age-appropriate reading material is available in the home for families.

We look forward to having a discussion on the request to the Alders by defining the problem and proposal to help turn the tide of shrinking math and reading proficiencies with our students.

Thank you for your consideration,



Sean Matteson
Chief of Staff