



2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



OUR ANNUAL REACH



2M
Students



450k
Educators



21k
Schools

OUR RESULTS



157M
pages read



2X
rate of reading
growth in 50 Days*

* When students read with frequency, defined as reading for 20 minutes per day for 33 days.

THE NEED

65%

of US fourth-graders
read below proficiency
= 35M students¹

more than
77%

of US Black and Hispanic
fourth-grade students
read below proficiency¹

only
11%

of US educators feel
"completely prepared"
to teach reading²

3X

US Children with a reading-based learning
difference are three times as likely to **drop
out of high school and twice as likely to
be suspended** than their peers³



Ameer Baraka, Keynote Speaker at Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia 2022

An accomplished Emmy nominated actor and **devoted dyslexia advocate committed to stopping the school-to-prison pipeline**, Baraka was only a few words shy of a life sentence in prison, all because he couldn't read.

"I was twenty-three years old and I was reading on a third-grade level I made up my mind that for these four years I've got [in prison], **I'm going to learn to read.** We went over some phonics and words. I was just completely oblivious. **And that's the first time I heard of dyslexia.**"

1. NAEP 2019 Mathematics and Reading Assessments

2. 2011 Data Book by Annie E. Casey Foundation

3. 2017 Nations Center for Learning Disabilities Annual Report

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

As we come upon the 75th anniversary of our founding, our legacy and our journey guides and informs the work we're doing today.

Learning Ally was founded in 1948 by Anne T. Macdonald in the basement of the New York Public Library (NYPL) as Recording for the Blind (RFB). Anne led the NYPL's Women's Auxiliary in recording textbooks on vinyl phonograph discs to enable blinded WWII veterans to fulfill the promise of the GI Bill. Her vision to use technology to provide equitable educational opportunities to all is one that continues to guide our work today.

Since those early days, we have continued to leverage every advancement in technology—from digital recording to neural imaging to virtual professional learning—to equip educators with best-in-class solutions and practices to reach the students who need us most.

The journey, of course, does not end here. Using what we've learned over our long history, we're on a mission to solve the literacy crisis by 2040. With an innovative spirit and the support of this community, we can and we will.



Eager for our next steps,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AL Friedman'.

Andrew Friedman
President and CEO

ACCELERATING INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Learning Ally partners with well-established institutions to accelerate innovation in the education space. Our current educational pilots include:



Accelerating Comprehension for Underserved Communities

Developing groundbreaking research that supports students from low socio-economic backgrounds in building essential skills to address unfinished learning post-pandemic in partnership with MIT.



Neuroscience Drives Early Detection App

Testing the Advanced Screener for Early Detection of Learning Issues in partnership with several key states including the State of California for their Dyslexia Initiative in partnership with UCSF.



Equity in Education Initiative

Striving to develop statewide support systems for students with learning disabilities, we partner with school districts to help identify and apply for federal funding opportunities and to impact policy change.

OUR UNIQUE APPROACH

Word
Recognition

Language
Comprehension

Cognitive
Variables

Home &
Environment

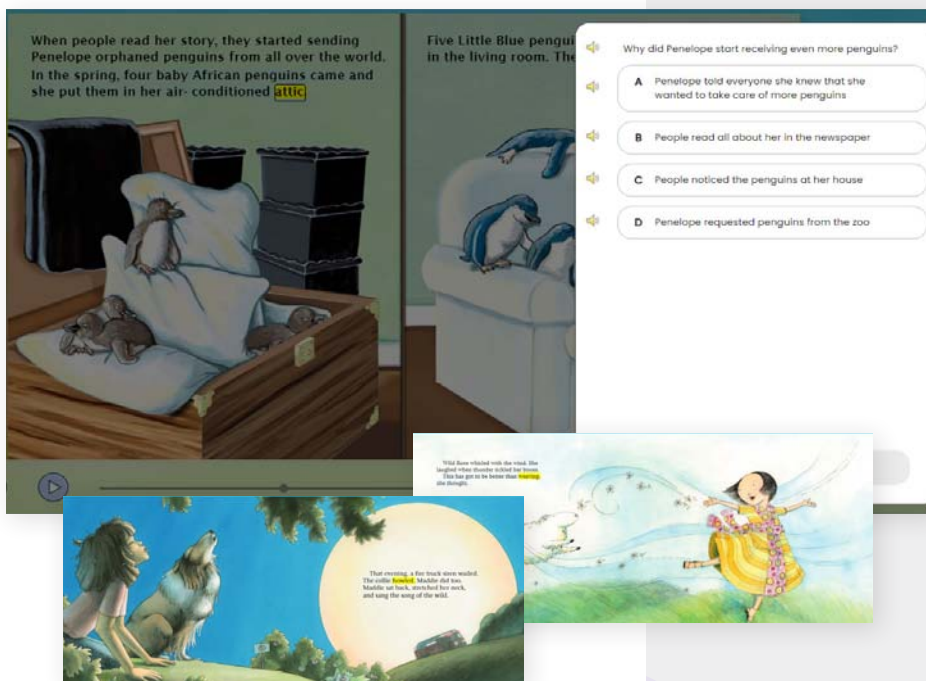


Whole Child Literacy™

We approach solutions design with a holistic lens on the unique variables **surrounding each student's learning ability and differences**. Driven by the science of reading, and the cognitive variables and socio-emotional influences of environment that may impact learning, we bring the latest research into practice, **helping educators customize their literacy instruction to meet each students' specific needs**, to spur academic growth and positively change their life achievement trajectories.

Introducing Excite Reading™

We are very proud to announce that Excite Reading™, **our newest solution for PreK-2nd grade has won its first award**, the Reader's Choice Award in Early Education. Met with great reception in the market, Excite Reading™ bridges the gap between phonics and reading comprehension, building vocabulary and background knowledge through a library of rich, engaging e-books that explore the worlds of gardens, insects, music and more. Carefully designed lessons take a **holistic approach to teaching words and creating context**, deepening comprehension and making connections so emerging readers can reach their full potential.



SUCCESS STORIES



"I am extremely grateful to Learning Ally...As a young dyslexic student, learning to read was hard. Any task that involved reading was frustrating. This reading resource introduced me to the fun parts of reading without the burden. It gave me access to exciting stories, captivating adventures and a huge amount of knowledge."

Ella Doerr, High School Student in Avon, NC



"In fifth grade, I was provided with accommodations to use assistive technology: Learning Ally's Audiobook Solution. We chose the resource because all the books are narrated by a human. This introduced me to a whole new world. I found the books I needed for school and wanted to read for pleasure, like *Harry Potter* and *The Maze Runner*."

Samantha Bachofen, College Student at the University of Wisconsin



"Give a student access to Learning Ally Audiobook Solution and he will squeal with excitement at finding one of his favorite books in audio format. He can finally read all by himself. Give a student access to a book club with other students who use Learning Ally Audiobook Solution too and she will make a connection with a student she didn't know very well. She'll discover this student loves the same part of the book and that she admires the same characters she too admires."

Tiffany Dudley Educator at McNeil Elementary School in McKinney, TX, leverages the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution to level the playing field for her students.



"Learning Ally was one of the first services I learned about when I became visually impaired. I was always a slow reader, and Learning Ally was the key to more efficient and enjoyable reading. I have been using it since high school, and it is still an essential service during graduate school."

Jonathan Zobek, Graduate Student at Salus University

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

We would like to highlight two of the several awards won this year – the SIIA CODiE Award recognizing Learning Ally's Audiobook Solution as the **Best Learning Recovery app** and the Reader's Choice Award in the category of Early Education, **recognizing our new solution, Excite Reading™** as an innovation that is changing the early literacy landscape, setting students up for academic success.

//CODiE//
2022 SIIA CODiE WINNER

CODiE Awards By SIIA Learning Ally Audiobook
Solution for Best Learning Recovery Tool



Readers Choice Awards By
SmartBrief On EdTech

VOLUNTEER NATION

Individual Program

Our volunteer program grew exponentially in 2022 nearly doubling our ways to serve. Learning Ally volunteers continue to support the production of our audiobooks. This year we focused on bringing more authentic narrator voices to our audiobook production. Additionally, we are now engaged in projects that help us grow our reach and impact beyond audiobooks. From research to call campaigns, to educator engagement, volunteers are serving students, schools, and districts in more ways than ever before.



740

Active Volunteers
This Year



30+

Mission-driven
Projects That
Volunteers
Contributed to



673

New Audiobook
Titles



"My motivation to give back comes from the fact that I work within a school that has seen the direct impact of using Learning Ally and having family members who have been affected by learning issues, who might have benefitted from using these services. I am also very passionate about making a difference in the lives of people in need."

Adoesha Taylor, Learning Ally Volunteer

Corporate Program

We help companies provide meaningful employee engagement opportunities through virtual group volunteer events and customized experiences that harness team members' talents and expertise. Through our events, employees understand the literacy problem firsthand and the impact on our workforce. They are guided to create social impact, ensuring students have seamless reading experiences. Our corporate volunteer program supports job satisfaction and retention as, now more than ever, employees value companies that support purpose driven programs.



18

Corporate
Partners



2,050

Corporate Volunteers
this Year



2,400

Books brought to
life by Corporate
Volunteers

"With Learning Ally, we're able to engage employees all over the country to make meaningful impact. Our employees' experiences have been transformational and eye opening. We know that our partnership with Learning Ally to develop education solutions has immediate benefit to thousands of students nationwide."

Libby Richards, Community Engagement Manager, Lenovo



Companies Involved



BOARD MEMBERS



"Inspired by my daughter's success through Learning Ally, my goal is to provide better access and a voice for students across our country."

Ms. Therese Llorente, National Board Chair
Volunteer and Learning Differences Advocate



Mr. Steve Carnevale, National Board Vice-Chair
UCSF Dyslexia Center, Founder & Co-Chairman, Advisory Board



Ms. Elise Darwish, National Board Vice-Chair
Ensemble Learning, CEO



Dr. Mary Beth O'Hagan, National Board Secretary
Strategic Evaluations, Licensed Clinical Psychologist



Ms. Rosemarie Loffredo, Board Member
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Advisor



Dr. Shawn Bird, Ed.D, Board Member
Houston Independent School District, Chief Academic Officer



Mr. Peter Falzon, Board Member
Ripple Science, President and CEO



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LEARNING ALLY is a leading nonprofit education organization dedicated to equipping educators with proven solutions that help struggling students reach their potential. Our range of literacy-focused offerings for students Pre-K to 12th grade and catalog of professional learning services are designed to support educators in literacy leadership and turn early and struggling readers into engaged learners. For more information, visit www.LearningAlly.org.

