

Empowering Spanish-Speaking Families: The Community Impact of Leyendo Juntos

Through strong community partnerships, the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's Leyendo Juntos initiative continues to connect with and support Spanish-speaking families. The Leyendo Juntos team is made up of representatives from Winchester Public Schools, United Way NSV, Handley Library, Building Bridges, Shenandoah University, the City of Winchester, John and Janice Wyatt Foundation and Opportunity Scholars. This collaboration enables a broader reach into our community and ability to focus on challenges specific to families whose first language is not English.

Leyendo Juntos, which means "Reading Together" in Spanish, is an effort to educate, empower and support local Hispanic families to better develop learning and literacy opportunities within the community. The project endeavors to find ways to create cross-cultural understanding for Spanish-speaking families with school-aged children.

By partnering in programming with Handley Library, Building Bridges, Winchester Public Schools and Healthy Families NSV, the Campaign can offer parents support where they need it most. Leyendo Juntos programming is offered to children in conjunction with other family services, providing true wraparound support. For example, while parents are practicing their own language and literacy skills at Building Bridges, Leyendo Juntos staff and volunteers are engaging children with read aloud story times, written activities and crafts. Parents are also given the tools and resources to further engage with their children at home.

For more information about Leyendo Juntos, contact Program Coordinator Ori Largent at olargent@lvwa.org.

Winchester CGLR Goals



Overarching Goal
Increase the percentage of third graders reading at or above the proficient level to at least 75% by 2032



School Readiness
Increase the number of children ready for kindergarten to at least 80% based on their performance on the PALS-K. Focus will be on further developing high-quality preschool and daycare programs and offering families out-of-school options to further learning and growth.



School Attendance
Reduce chronic absenteeism to rates at or below 10% among K-4th graders at all four elementary schools by 2025.



Summer and Afterschool Learning
Increase by 100% the number of K-4th grade students who have access to summer and afterschool opportunities that focus on literacy-related learning and enrichment.

Partner Spotlight: Handley Library's Grow a Reader

Handley Library is launching a new program for caregivers with kids ages 1-3: [Grow a Reader Playgroup](#). This 5-week interactive playgroup features educational components with outside professionals each week that will developmentally support children through learning and play. Community professionals based on each week's theme will provide passive education to support caregivers of littles ages 1-3.



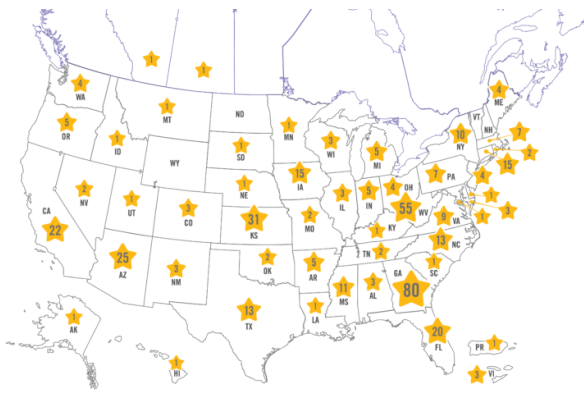
This new playgroup program is supported by [Family Place Libraries](#), which centers early childhood development at the forefront of public library instruction. The Handley Library branch is seeking accreditation to become a Family Place Library this year. Stay tuned for more on the Grow a Reader brand that aligns with this accreditation in the next few months.

New Little Library Opens at Montague Avenue United Methodist Church



A new Little Library featuring books in English and Spanish is now available at Montague Avenue United Methodist Church. Over 200 Spanish books were donated by Winchester AAUW and the HJH Libraries for All Foundation to be distributed in Little Libraries around town!

Planning for Impact: Winchester CGLR Leadership Gathers for Strategic Retreat



The Winchester Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Steering Committee gathered for a Strategic Retreat at the Campaign's three-year mark in late 2024. The retreat was led by the [national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) team to conduct internal assessments and Campaign benchmarks. The team celebrated Winchester's forward progress and planned for continued growth in 2025. The Winchester CGLR is one of over 350 Campaign communities in the United States and Canada.

Coalition Partners



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[Bright Futures](#)
[Community Foundation of Northern Shenandoah Valley](#)
[Girls on the Run Shenandoah Valley](#)
[Handley Regional Library System](#)
[Healthy Families of the Northern Shenandoah Valley](#)
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[Pediatric Associates of Winchester](#)
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