



“If you help a person to read, then their opportunities in life will be endless.”

- Barbara Bush

RISD Needs you!

Reading is the **most crucial academic skill** for a student to master because it is the basis for all learning. Without a strong foundation in reading, students lag in every class, year after year, because most curriculum is taught using the skill of reading. **Unfortunately, only 47 percent of RISD students read proficiently by third grade.** These students need additional interventions, resources, and YOU – champions from outside of the classroom – to catch up to their peers.

Together, let's create a literacy-rich environment that supports our at-risk students and ensures literacy success for all!

Children who do not read on level by third grade have only a 1 in 8 chance of **catching up to their grade level peers.**

Children who do not read on level by third grade are four times more likely to **drop out of school.**

Reading below the expected third grade level is **highly correlated to incarceration and poverty.**

Source: Children's Reading Foundation (readingfoundation.org) and Bush Houston Literacy Foundation (bushhoustonliteracy.org).



What does volunteering with We Read Together look like?

Our goal is to have an extensive team of We Read Together volunteers who are wholehearted early literacy advocates! To that end:



Volunteers will receive best practices training from RISD in late February 2022. This ensures that you will feel confident and equipped to work productively with our students.



We Read Together volunteers work with our younger elementary students one-on-one or in small groups of two to four. Participating students have been identified by their teachers as needing additional reading support.



During a typical volunteer session, the student or small group is led through two literacy-focused activities by a We Read Together volunteer. All materials for the activities are provided on site.



For this pilot program of We Read Together, volunteers will serve on campuses March through May of 2022. If you wish to build a relationship with a student or small group, consider committing to volunteer at the same campus and time for the spring semester.



**Ready
to Join
Us?**

**We can't wait to welcome
First United Methodist Church
Richardson to our campuses!**

**Let us know you are ready to
volunteer by scanning the QR code and filling
out the volunteer form by February 11, 2022.**

Richardson ISD is pleased to partner with First United Methodist Church Richardson's Children First Committee to pilot We Read Together at Greenwood Hills Elementary and Mark Twain Elementary.

*RISD uses Voly at **risd.voly.org** to manage volunteer opportunities throughout the district, including We Read Together. If you do not already have an account, you will need to create one. All volunteers must consent to receiving a background check and are required to implement all current district health and safety protocols.*

Once your Voly account has been approved you will receive a confirmation email with next steps. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Carrie Saunders at Carrie.Saunders@risd.org.

START HERE!

Scan below or visit
s.risd.org/WRTV



THANK YOU

first united methodist church

Richardson

**Deadline to
express interest is
February 11, 2022**

