



# 2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT

## Who We Help



**2.3M**  
Students



**615K**  
Educators



**23K**  
Schools

## The Need

**65%** of all fourth-graders read below proficiency = 35M students<sup>1</sup>

only **11%** of educators feel "completely prepared" to teach reading<sup>2</sup>

**400%** students with reading deficits are 4X more likely to drop out of high school<sup>2</sup>

## Celebrating 75 Years of Access to Reading



### Justin Purvis

Learning Ally Member  
Scholarship Winner  
College Graduate  
Graphic Novelist

Scholarship recipient Justin Purvis, once a struggling reader, now a graphic novelist, highlights **the struggles of students who learn differently** and the triumphs of students who gain access to our Audiobook Solution in his preferred method of communication - graphic novels.



"At the intersection of art and words, there is a colorful realm of visual storytelling that opens possibilities and the imagination to extraordinary worlds and endless narratives that bridge students to a vision of what they can contribute to the world."

**Terrie Noland, Ph.D., CALP, Vice President of Educator Initiatives**

[Learn more](#) about multimodal reading experiences and how they support students with learning challenges.

1. NAEP 2019 Mathematics and Reading Assessments  
2. 2019 EdWeek Research Center

# The Transformative Impact of Our Community

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe Learning Ally is celebrating its 75th birthday! I am filled with immense gratitude for all your contributions and commitment to our mission. With your help, we have touched uncountable lives and brought hope and success to the educators and students we serve. I am fortunate to have been able to share fourteen years of my life with this organization.

This year we continue to tackle the literacy crisis with exciting new developments, including the roll-out of our Brain Based Literacy Instruction. Through this new professional learning solution, we are training educators to develop skilled readers at scale. We have also partnered with renowned research institutions and several states to test an early detection screener for learning differences and identify personalized instruction to meet students' needs. And in more great news, we've advanced our Audiobook Solution into more of the largest districts in the country, supporting even more educators and students and growing the impact of Learning Ally.

It is with immense joy that I have witnessed the life-changing power of your support. We have had amazing success over the past 75 years and together we will continue to ensure **ALL STUDENTS HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN**.



With gratitude,

Andrew Friedman  
President and CEO

## Accelerating Innovation and Partnerships

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



### Accelerating Comprehension for Underserved Communities

Along with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), we are developing groundbreaking research that supports students from low socioeconomic backgrounds in building essential skills to address unfinished learning post-pandemic.



### Neuroscience Drives Early Detection App for Learning Differences

Working in partnership with research institutes at Florida State University (FSU) and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), we have provided the testing and development of the Advanced Screener for Early Detection of Learning Issues.



### Working with State Departments of Education

We are building awareness and influencing policy changes to support students with learning differences and advocating for the use of Learning Ally solutions in all classrooms across the United States. We are currently working with the State Departments of Education in Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and California.

# Solutions Driving Outcomes

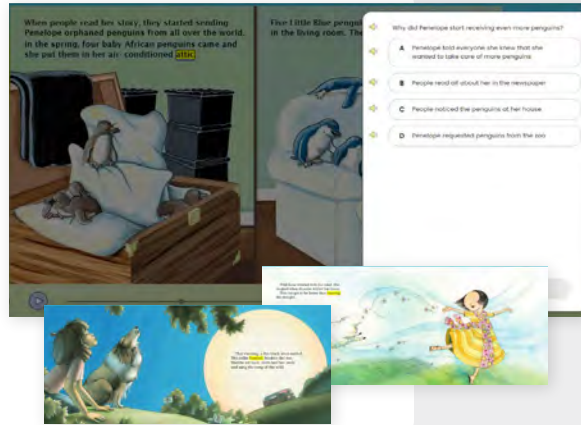


## Whole Child Literacy™

Our approach to the development of our solutions is driven by the science of reading and an understanding of the cognitive variables and external influences of home and environment that may impact learning. Our methodology ensures educators can effectively customize instruction to help students read and learn.

## Award Winning Solutions for Pre-K to 12th Grade

The Learning Ally Audiobook Solution® and Excite Reading® empower struggling readers to become independent and engaged learners, by providing equitable access to grade level content, raising their knowledge, comprehension, and self-esteem.



## Introducing Brain-Based Literacy Instruction

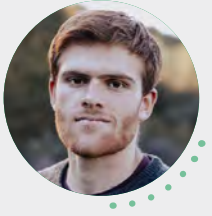
Launched earlier this year, our new award-winning professional learning solution is unique in the market. It combines training on the science of reading through a combination of live or on-demand workshop sessions and collaborative Communities of Practice that provide opportunities to refine what was taught. Individual coaching is also available and gives educators the understanding, tools, and practice needed to apply the science of reading and close the literacy gap.



"The science of reading is an interdisciplinary body of knowledge five decades in the making that shows how the brain learns to read. To be proficient readers, children need to be able to lift the words off the page through decoding and then have the necessary language skills to understand them."

**Dr. Molly Ness**, a reading researcher and Learning Ally's Vice President of Academic Content

## Success Stories



"I was no longer confused or ostracized because I began reading stories alongside my classmates. My vocabulary developed with Learning Ally and I began understanding the beauty of a well-written story."

**Jake Sporleder, Student in CA**



"When I was introduced to Learning Ally, I had known about audiobooks for some time, but they never really clicked with me. But, human-narrated audiobooks were different. With the Learning Ally app, I felt like I had control over how fast I was reading and when I was reading. If I wanted to follow along or just listen, I had the option. For me, audiobooks are exactly the same thing as visual reading, except that it's reading via the ears."

**Ylia Thumann, Student in NJ**



"The program has brought fun back into reading through incentives that have been provided. Reading frequency has increased across the District. We are proud to be a Learning Ally School District."

**Yukima Vannoy, Supervisor of Secondary ELA East Orange School District**



"We loved Excite Reading!" says a class of second grade students at Ola Edwards Community School in Hillside, NJ. The class was among the winners of the inaugural Excite Reading All Stars Games. Learning Ally started the All Stars Games to help build motivation and excitement for reading.

**Mr. Todaro's Class, Ola Edwards Community School in Hillside, NJ**

## Awards and Recognitions

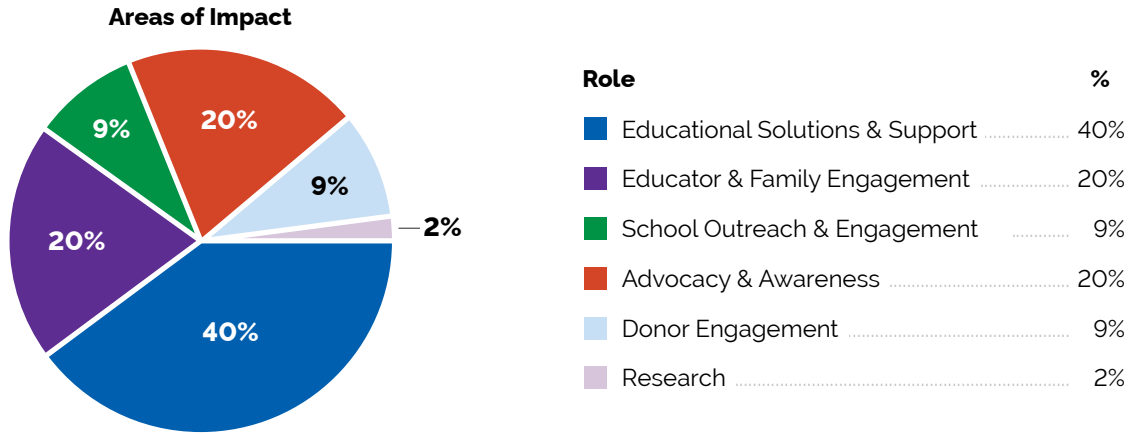
We are proud of our multi-award-winning solutions - providing teachers with all of the tools they need to help students succeed. This year we are highlighting awards recognizing our latest offerings. Tech & Learning Awards of Excellence acknowledges our professional learning offerings' courseware as "effective brain-based literacy instruction" and the American Consortium for Equity in Education awards Excite Reading™ as the Best Early Childhood Education Solutions. Visit [learningally.org/About-Us/Awards-and-Accolades](https://learningally.org/About-Us/Awards-and-Accolades) to see the full list of all of our awards.



# Our Volunteers

## Individual Volunteers

Over Learning Ally's 75-year history, volunteers have always been core to our success. Today, the impact of our volunteers span all areas of Learning Ally's mission.



 **1,970**  
Total Volunteers with Service Donated

 **44**  
Corporate Partners

 **25,697**  
Total Service Hours Donated, Including Corporate Volunteer Data

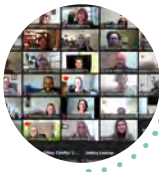
## Corporate Volunteers

Through our Corporate Volunteer Program, Learning Ally has welcomed thousands of employee volunteers from companies such as Deloitte, Yahoo!, Rocket Community Fund, CSAA, and Lenovo. The program helps to spread our mission to new individuals while assisting companies in giving back to their community.

**Deloitte.**



**Lenovo**



"I can't imagine growing up without books. I love this program so much! The dyslexia simulation was incredibly eye opening."

**Cassie Amburgey, Rocket Community Fund**

## Do you want to join the Volunteer Nation?

Learn how to get involved as a volunteer with Learning Ally by visiting our [website](#).

# Award-Winning Educator Community

Learning Ally's Educator Community unites all educators in a safe and collaborative network. Educators can share research-based literacy instructional practices, celebrate each other's accomplishments, and drive the growth and influence of Learning Ally solutions across the country.



The Learning Ally Educator Community is an extension of Learning Ally's mission, recognizing teachers as vital thought leaders. By supporting the growth of educators, we directly empower students, unlocking their potential.

The Learning Ally Educator Community won a **CMX Community Industry Award** for Best Growth Marketing Community in 2023. Elizabeth Zwerg, the Community Manager, was also a Finalist for Best Executive Leader for building an internal, 18-person cross-functional team that supports the mission of the Community.



"Being part of the wonderful community has been such a positive light in my life. I've learned so much from others here about best instructional practices in literacy instruction."

**Leana Malinowsky, Middlesex, NJ, Teacher of the Year 2023**

## Board Members

We are proud and grateful for our incredible board of leading researchers, literacy experts, practitioners, and literacy advocates.



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



**Ms. Rosemarie Loffredo**  
Board Member  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma  
Society, CFO and CAO



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



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



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



**Peter Falzon**  
Board Member  
Ripple Science, President  
and CEO



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



**Alexandra Hill**  
Board Member  
The Blackstone Group, Senior  
Managing Director