

# Transforming Lives Through Literacy

**IMPACT** 



2.6M Students



154K Educators



24K Schools



14.9M
Rooks Read



"Learning Ally's library of audiobooks opened up a world of possibilities for me. Instead of spending hours deciphering text, I could listen to the material, which helped me absorb and retain information much more effectively."

ZSUZSA, MEMBER SINCE 2019 NOW COLLEGE FRESHMAN

# Unlocking Potential, One Reader at a Time

Literacy opens doors to endless new worlds and opportunities. Yet, over 13.5 million children struggle with reading, and as many as 1 in 5 (10.4M) students are believed to have dyslexia; however, as much as 80% of these students go undiagnosed.

students with reading deficits are

400%

more likely to drop out of high school<sup>1</sup> 70%

of all prisoners are reported as having a learning difference<sup>2</sup> 11%

of educators feel "completely prepared" to teach reading<sup>3</sup>

# **Addressing Literacy Rates in Underserved Communities**

Florida allocated funding to provide Learning Ally to atrisk students in juvenile justice facilities, disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and fostering a love of reading.



Over time while reading books on Learning Ally, I discovered some words I never knew before. I'm reading faster and understanding more, and it has made me a better reader."

- STUDENT

Massachusetts allocated an additional \$561,000 to expand Learning Ally's audiobook solutions to over 240 schools, aiding student recovery from pandemic learning loss.



After 25\* years with Learning Ally, my favorite stories are about late-blooming readers who finally access and love grade-level material through audio."

 ANNE, TEACHER OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, BOSTON

- 1 Source: Anne Casey Foundation
- 2 Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice
- 3 Source: 2019 Ed Week Research Center

## A Call to Action: Expanding Our Mission

DEAR SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND FRIENDS

As the new CEO of Learning Ally, I am profoundly grateful for your unwavering support of our nearly 80-year legacy. Thank you for being an Ally!

We face a critical challenge: ensuring every child struggling with reading gets the early help they need. The barrier is **access**. Up to **one in five students** has dyslexia, yet expensive screenings and a lack of early school testing leave thousands behind. This delay is devastating; a staggering **50% of young people in juvenile justice facilities are dyslexic**. We must act now.

In the upcoming year, we will launch three initiatives to expand our reach and make reading accessible and fun:

- 1. **Innovative Solutions:** We will enhance our audiobooks with more engaging features, **expand into multilingual content**, and collect data to prove our impact.
- 2. **Strategic Partnerships**: We will establish alliances to develop a **comprehensive framework** that outlines the lifelong needs of students with reading differences.
- 3. **Community Outreach:** We will leverage federal funding and the growth of homeschooling to be a vital resource for **families and the broader community**.

To achieve this, our critical focus is on making **dyslexia screening universally accessible and affordable for all**. Your continued support is the foundation that enables us to transform lives and their communities. Thank you for being a Learning Ally!



### **Powered by Philanthropy:**

# **The Literacy Opportunity Fund**

Launched in 2025, Learning Ally's program aims to **remove financial barriers** for under-resourced schools by providing free access to its Audiobook Solution®. This initiative gives students the tools to **engage with grade-level content** and build confidence. In its inaugural year, the program supported **35 schools, reaching over 17,000 students.** 

Thank you so much for awarding us the Learning Ally Literacy Opportunity Grant. I am so excited to be able to use Learning Ally again with our struggling readers. You are providing the opportunity for all students to access books at their interest level as we strive to teach them the skills they need to become independent, knowledgeable readers."

-MARIETTA MCCULLOUGH, READING INTERVENTIONIST/LIBRARIAN, MATERNITY OF MARY-ST. ANDREW IN ST. PAUL, MN



Why this work is important:

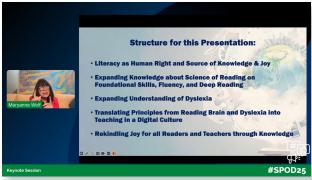


# 10 Years of Driving Educational Outcomes

Celebrating a decade of impact, two key Learning Ally initiatives have driven significant educational outcomes for our students. The Great Reading Games, a 10-year-old initiative, resulted in a **record 212,000 students reading 42.5 million pages** over three months. This success inspired investment in year-round engagement programs.

Concurrently, Spotlight on Dyslexia (Virtual Event), now in its 10th year, continues to offer **thousands of teachers** worldwide vital professional development and Continuing Education (CE) certificates for identifying dyslexia and implementing evidence-based literacy instruction. Both programs emphasize Learning Ally's commitment to improving outcomes for students with reading struggles.





## **Structured Literacy in Action**

This award-winning training expands a district's instructional capacity by building **mastery in science-based reading practices** and providing **immediately applicable strategies for the classroom and home**. In partnership with the Dollar General Literacy Fund (DGLF), 300 educators nationwide received this training at no cost.

### What are teachers saying about Structured Literacy in Action?

I would recommend this training to colleagues, especially those in districts that want everyone to have a common understanding and language around literacy."

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DR. SARAH LEE, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS & CURRICULUM, NICHOLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS, WV



#### **National Achievement Awards**

Thanks to private donors, we recognize the academic and personal success of **students who learn differently** and honor the **dedicated educators and schools** who champion literacy and learning.



Marion Huber Learning Through Listening® (LTL) Award Winner Erica Frishberg
High School Senior and College Freshman Erica Frishberg, FL, shares her transformational
story, "My guidance counselor recommended Learning Ally, which in Florida is free to any
student who classifies as a struggling reader. I took it to my advantage, and I soared."



Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award (SAA) Winner Thomas Woodyard Graduate student Thomas Woodyard, GA, who is visually impaired, shares, "I would like to thank Learning Ally for their immense support, which has made it possible for me to achieve the best possible success in my studies, given that I have the right infrastructure in place to excel."



Winslow Coyne Reitnouer Excellence in Education Award Winner Jennifer Jedrzejewski We honor Middle School Reading Interventionist at Helen Fort Middle School in NJ, Jennifer Jedrzejewski, for transforming the lives of students who learn differently. She shares, "I try to find books that represent our students, because I feel when students see themselves in what they're reading, they will find more value, especially for my students who are more reluctant readers."

To learn more about our awards, visit, LearningAlly.org/NAA

### How Volunteers (Individuals & Corporations) Are Making a Difference

For over 77 years, our dedicated volunteer community has contributed millions of hours to create to creating our life-changing library of audiobooks. Volunteers serve as narrators, **bringing stories** and characters to life, and review content to ensure every audiobook meets our high-quality standards. By donating their time in these **critical roles**, our volunteers are **making a real difference** in student outcomes.

Marking its fifth anniversary, Learning Ally's corporate volunteer program has achieved significant, action-oriented results. Over **140 events engaged 5,300+ employees**, contributing **12,300+ volunteer hours** and **performing quality assurance for nearly 7,000 audiobooks**. The program grew rapidly this fiscal year, adding **13 new partners** including KPMG and Microsoft, and hosted our largest corporate volunteer event ever with West Monroe.









To learn more about our corporate volunteering programs, visit LearningAlly.org/GetInvolved

