

Literacy First Expands its Early Childhood Literacy Program to Chattanooga, TN After Successful Pilot Program

12 Hamilton County Elementary Schools will now implement evidence-based program

AUSTIN, TX, UNITED STATES, August 28, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Literacy First](#), a program from The University of Texas at Austin's Charles A. Dana Center dedicated to improving literacy outcomes for young learners, is excited to announce its expansion beyond Central Texas. In partnership with Chattanooga 2.0, Literacy First piloted its evidence-based tutoring program in Chattanooga, TN, during the 2023–2024 school year.



Literacy First teaches young children how to read, equipping them to excel in life and realize their dreams. Since 1994, Literacy First has partnered with public, Title I schools and community organizations to provide intensive and effective literacy tuto

The Literacy First tutoring model supports children at Title I schools in grades K-2, providing personalized literacy instruction to address individual needs. Through high-impact, one-to-one tutoring during the school day, they close gaps in literacy skills and set students on a path to excel in school and life as they learn to read.



We are thrilled to bring our proven tutoring model to Chattanooga and collaborate with partners dedicated to creating opportunities for children to build a strong educational foundation in reading."

Literacy First Director, Dr. Claire Hagen Alvarado

Literacy First successfully piloted its program with first and second grade students at East Side Elementary. This marks the first time Literacy First has replicated its tutoring program outside of Central Texas. The positive impact on student literacy outcomes was evident, with over half of students in the pilot program reaching or nearing grade-level reading standards by the end of the school year, motivating the district to expand the services offered.

For the 2024–2025 school year, Literacy First, in partnership with both Chattanooga 2.0 and Hamilton County Schools, will extend the program to include 11 additional elementary school

campuses and two District Lead Coaches. This expansion is part of Literacy First's gradual release Capacity Building Model, where their expert staff trains and supports district staff and paraprofessional tutors over several years. The goal of this model is for the partner schools and organizations to implement the program independently with reduced support from Literacy First over time.

"We are thrilled to bring our proven tutoring model to Chattanooga and collaborate with partners dedicated to creating opportunities for all children to build a strong educational foundation in reading," Literacy First Director, Dr. Claire Hagen Alvarado stated.

Chattanooga 2.0 Director of Literacy and Student Strategy, Brandon Hubbard-Heitz added, "Literacy First's tutoring model is a key strategy in Chattanooga 2.0's effort to build a robust and aligned system of literacy supports for children beginning from birth at home, in school, and across the community. We were excited to launch the model in Hamilton County Schools and are even more excited to see the model's expanded impact on K-2 students across the county."

Reading is essential to success in every academic discipline, which is why it was important to us to see Literacy First scale up as a tool to support students who need a little extra help," says Dr. Justin Robertson, Superintendent of Hamilton County Schools. "I am excited about the partnership with multiple community partners to provide tutoring that will make a real impact in both the short and long term."

For more information about Literacy First and their mission, visit www.literacyfirst.org.

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About Literacy First

Literacy First teaches young children how to read, equipping them to excel in life and realize their dreams. Since 1994, Literacy First has partnered with public, Title I schools and community organizations to provide intensive and effective literacy tutoring in English and Spanish to K-2 students. Literacy First is an outreach program of the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin. Learn more at www.literacyfirst.org.

About Chattanooga 2.0

Chattanooga 2.0 was established in 2016 and is a small nonprofit that works to change systems in order to impact generational changes in Chattanooga and Hamilton County, TN. The ultimate goal is to improve economic opportunity and quality of life — and Chattanooga 2.0 believes education attainment is the first step. From early childhood education to the attainment of a thriving wage career, the small team leads initiatives to remove systemic barriers and provide intentional supports to children, students, and their families. Chattanooga 2.0 convenes and leads community groups such as Early Matters, Great Teachers Great Leaders, the Out of School Time Alliance, and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Children's Cabinet. For more information

visit www.chatt2.org.

Media Contact:

Madeline Townsend – Communications Coordinator

610-297-0530

m.townsend@austin.utexas.edu

Madeline Townsend

Literacy First

+1 610-297-0530

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