

Milwaukee's Future Starts With Reading

EQUIPPING EDUCATORS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

THE CHALLENGE

Too many Milwaukee students are not reading at grade level by third grade – a critical turning point in a child's education.

Without strong reading skills by this grade, students fall behind in every subject, and the consequences can last a lifetime.

This isn't just an education issue. It's a challenge that affects the future of our city, our workforce, and our collective well-being.

Uniting Schools, Leaders, and Communities for Literacy

The Milwaukee Reading Coalition is a first-of-its-kind, cross-sector partnership uniting Milwaukee Public Schools, charter, and private schools with civic leaders, philanthropic organizations, and community advocates.

Together, we are aligned around one goal: to ensure every child in Milwaukee can read at grade level by the end of third grade.

OUR MISSION

We are an "unusual group" with a shared commitment to one of Milwaukee's most urgent challenges: low reading proficiency in early grades. Our mission is to build a sustainable, citywide system for reading success by investing in the professional development of teachers and school leaders.

Through training aligned with Wisconsin's Act 20 and tailored to Milwaukee's needs, we are working to ensure that every educator is equipped and every child is supported.

OUR CHARGE

Research is clear: when teachers are trained in the science of reading, and a school-wide plan is implemented with fidelity, student outcomes improve dramatically.

That's why the Milwaukee Reading Coalition is focused on instruction. **Over the next three years, the coalition will support early-grade teachers and school leaders across all sectors in Milwaukee.** Literacy coaches will work alongside them in classrooms to build sustainable, long-term support.

By investing in the professional development of teachers and principals in the science of reading in alignment with Act 20, we can build a **sustainable system for reading success across Milwaukee.**



TAKE ACTION

Join us in building a future where every child in Milwaukee learns to read with confidence.

Scan the QR code to sign on in support and learn more.

Together, we can ensure Milwaukee's future starts with reading.

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MILWAUKEE READING COALITION

WHO WE ARE

The Coalition is led by three co-chairs: **JoAnne Anton** of Herb Kohl Philanthropies, **Dr. Howard Fuller** of Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy, and former MPS Board Member **Mark Sain**.

They are joined by a leadership committee that includes influential voices from across Milwaukee: education advocates, nonprofit executives, business leaders, and elected officials committed to a future where all Milwaukee students can read, thrive, and lead. The leadership committee includes:

Jim Bender

Wisconsin Independent Charter School Advocates

Joel Brennan

Greater Milwaukee Committee

Dr. Brenda Cassellius

Milwaukee Public Schools

Ricardo Diaz

Retired - United Community Center

Lauren Feaster

Professional Dimensions

Rob Henken

Herzfeld Foundation

Mayor Cavalier Johnson

City of Milwaukee

Stephanie Maney

City Year Milwaukee

Colleston Morgan Jr.

City Forward Collective

Tim Sheehy

Senior Advisor - Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce

Katie Scott

Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools

Greg Wesley

Greater Milwaukee Foundation