Reading as a Community Initiative
The Science of Reading
Background:

• 58% percent of 4th graders in New Jersey are being left behind per NAEP 2019 READING results. (NJ Reading League)

• In Montclair, in Spring 2022, a significant proportion of children did not meet grade level expectations for ELA.
  • Some children appear to be at higher risk to not be at grade level.
Comparison of Montclair Public Schools to NJ State Average: Spring 2022 NJSILA English Language Arts: % Meeting/Exceeding Expectations
Performance of Economically Disadvantaged Students: Montclair Public Schools
% Meeting/Exceeding Expectations in NJSILA ELA

Elementary
- 2019: 29% Econ. Dis., 38% Not Econ. Dis.
- 2022: 74% Econ. Dis., 74% Not Econ. Dis.

Middle
- 2019: 31% Econ. Dis., 24% Not Econ. Dis.
- 2022: 72% Econ. Dis., 67% Not Econ. Dis.

High
- 2019: 39% Econ. Dis., 19% Not Econ. Dis.
- 2022: 81% Econ. Dis., 51% Not Econ. Dis.
Performance of Students with Active IEPs or 504s: Montclair Public Schools
% Meeting/Exceeding Expectations in NJSLA ELA
Performance of Race/Ethnicity subgroups: Montclair Public Schools
% Meeting/Exceeding Expectations in NJSLA ELA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>67%</td>
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</tbody>
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- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian
- White
- Multiple Categories
Recap

• The human brain is hardwired for oral language.

• BUT the brain is NOT hardwired to learn to read.

• Reading is a complex activity requiring cooperation between multiple systems in the brain.

• A child must “rewire” their brain to develop the neural pathways required for reading.

• Science has helped us understand the sequence of steps necessary to develop the circuity that links the sounds of words to the print code.
Schematics of Reading

5 Pillars of Reading
National Reading Panel
Reading as a Community Initiative

• Montclair Public Schools are adopting curriculum consistent with Science of Reading

• How can community support children and schools as they develop “reading brains”?
  • Including children who may need extra support
  • Numerous amazing organizations and resources at work in our town
Library is rooted in equity and can provide resources to all.
LITERACY is a fundamental HUMAN RIGHT.
FREEDOM & LITERACY

"ONCE YOU LEARN TO READ, YOU WILL BE FOREVER FREE."

Frederick Douglass
Thoughts?