

# SERVE MINNESOTA

The power of AmeriCorps. The power of you.



Since 2003, Reading Corps has trained AmeriCorps tutors to work with students struggling with reading. Reading Corps enthusiastically continues in this important role of tutoring students which is now even more critical given the pandemic. Beyond our traditional role of training tutors and partnering with schools, Reading Corps is investigating a way to offer support to classroom teachers who voluntarily chose with their school to partner with Reading Corps.

In 2020, Reading Corps/ServeMinnesota launched a great project under the lead of Dr. David Parker, Vice President of Research and Development at ServeMinnesota, to design classroom reading lessons/materials aligned with the content of LETRS for classroom teachers in grades Kindergarten through 3rd.

### **What is LETRS**

LETRS is a professional development program that provides the "WHY" or the research base and rationale for what teachers need to know and be able to do for effective reading instruction. LETRS also includes some direction to teachers about "WHAT" ought to be included in their reading lessons. LETRS does not provide teachers with actual reading lessons or materials to implement reading instruction for a specific grade level. When teachers complete the LETRS training, teachers then have a huge mountain of work ahead as they need to redesign their daily reading lessons to align with their new knowledge from LETRS.

### **How Reading Corps Builds on LETRS**

Based on the same research utilized by LETRS, ServeMinnesota created classroom materials with daily reading lessons for grades K-3 that address the "WHAT" and "HOW" of reading instruction in order to support classroom teachers who might voluntarily partner with Reading Corps on this new opportunity. These reading lessons/materials address early foundational reading skills. These lessons/materials support teacher instruction for 30 minutes of their classroom reading instruction which often ranges between 90 and 120 minutes. The lessons are set up to complement the curriculum that is already in place at schools. Currently, ServeMinnesota and Reading Corps are piloting this effort with K-3 classroom teachers, who are using these materials for part of their classroom reading instruction (about 30 minutes of their reading block) and the teachers continue to use their school's curriculum for the rest of their reading instruction.

In summary, LETRS is a very strong professional development for teachers and also for professors of our teacher candidates. Reading Corps has a vision to further support teachers by providing resources (reading lessons/materials) that align with LETRS. Teachers may choose to use these resources during their reading instruction, noting that schools will still need to choose and provide teachers with a reading curriculum.

Contact: Susan Thomson, Senior Strategic Analyst – Research and Development  
susan@serveminnesota.org or 612.581.2788