



# United Way of New York City

Campaign For Grade Level Reading, July 2021

# Contextualizing the Problem

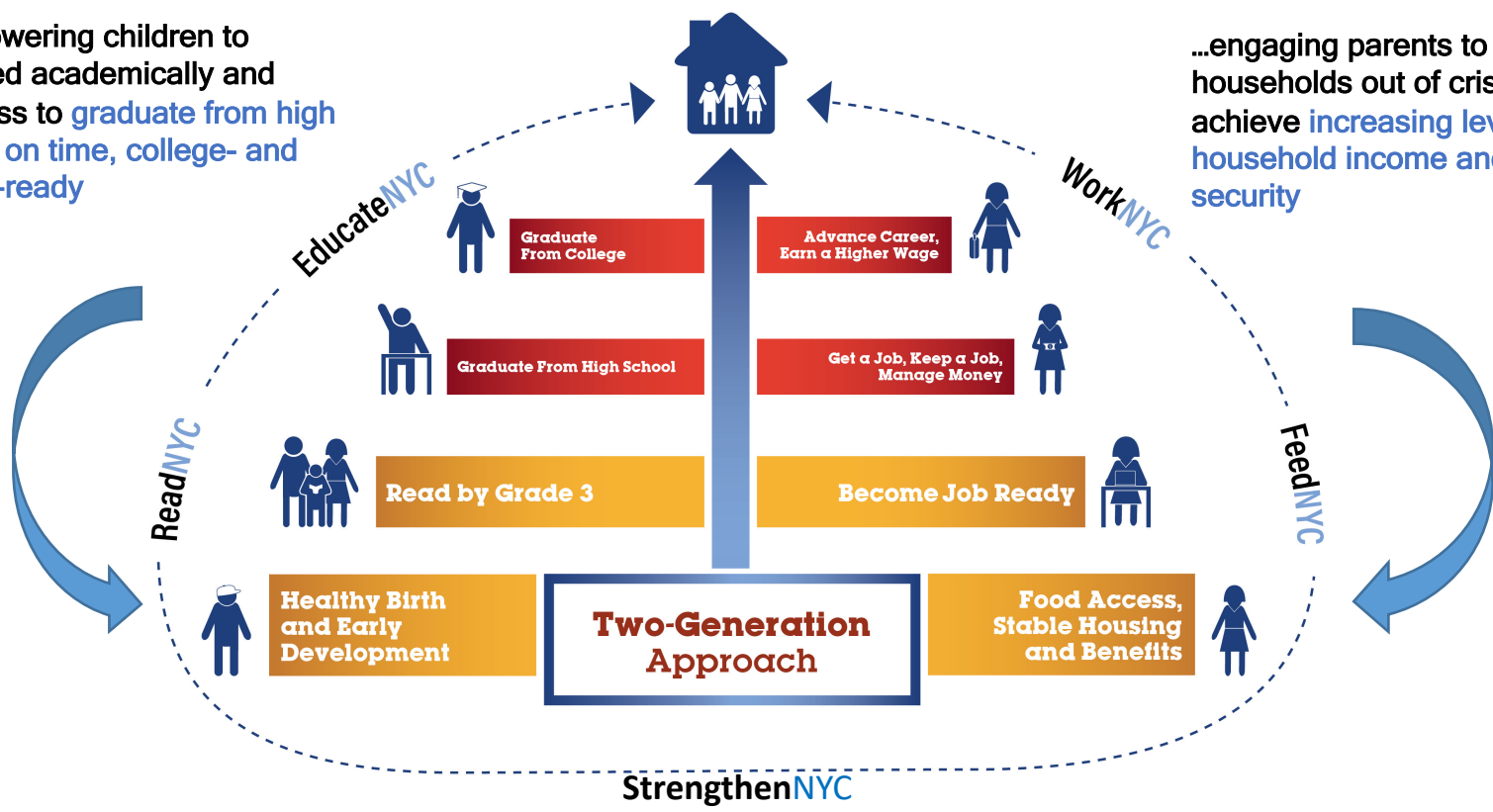
A legacy of systemic racism and inequity undergirds the education system in New York City and impedes low-income students of color from early childhood and through high school with lasting negative effects on life trajectory. The coronavirus pandemic shined a spotlight on the lack of equity in New York City's education system and has had a massive disparate impact on low-income children of color. Experts agree that COVID "slide" is real and remote education was no substitute for consistent in-person learning (NWEA, 2020). In New York City, more Black children learned remotely than White children, and while the effects of that will be revealed with future testing, the conditions for pre-existing disparate outcomes for Black and brown children are only worsening.

# Our Community Impact Approach

Aligned with two-generational progress, our work is focused around...

...empowering children to succeed academically and progress to graduate from high school on time, college- and career-ready

...engaging parents to move their households out of crisis to achieve increasing levels of household income and financial security



...building the capacity of New York City community-based organizations so that they are **stable, strong, and well positioned** to sustain their efforts.

## Principals & Teachers

Develop...

- an **equity mindset** (a belief that all children can succeed)
- **culturally relevant pedagogical practice**
- an **empowering culture of learning**
- **rigor around literacy**

...all of which lead to **high-quality learning experiences** that affirm students' cultures, blend passion and learning, and enable students to master content

## Parents

- **Increase household economic stability** through benefits access, education and workforce development
- **Increase involvement and support** of their child's literacy and academic performance at home and in school

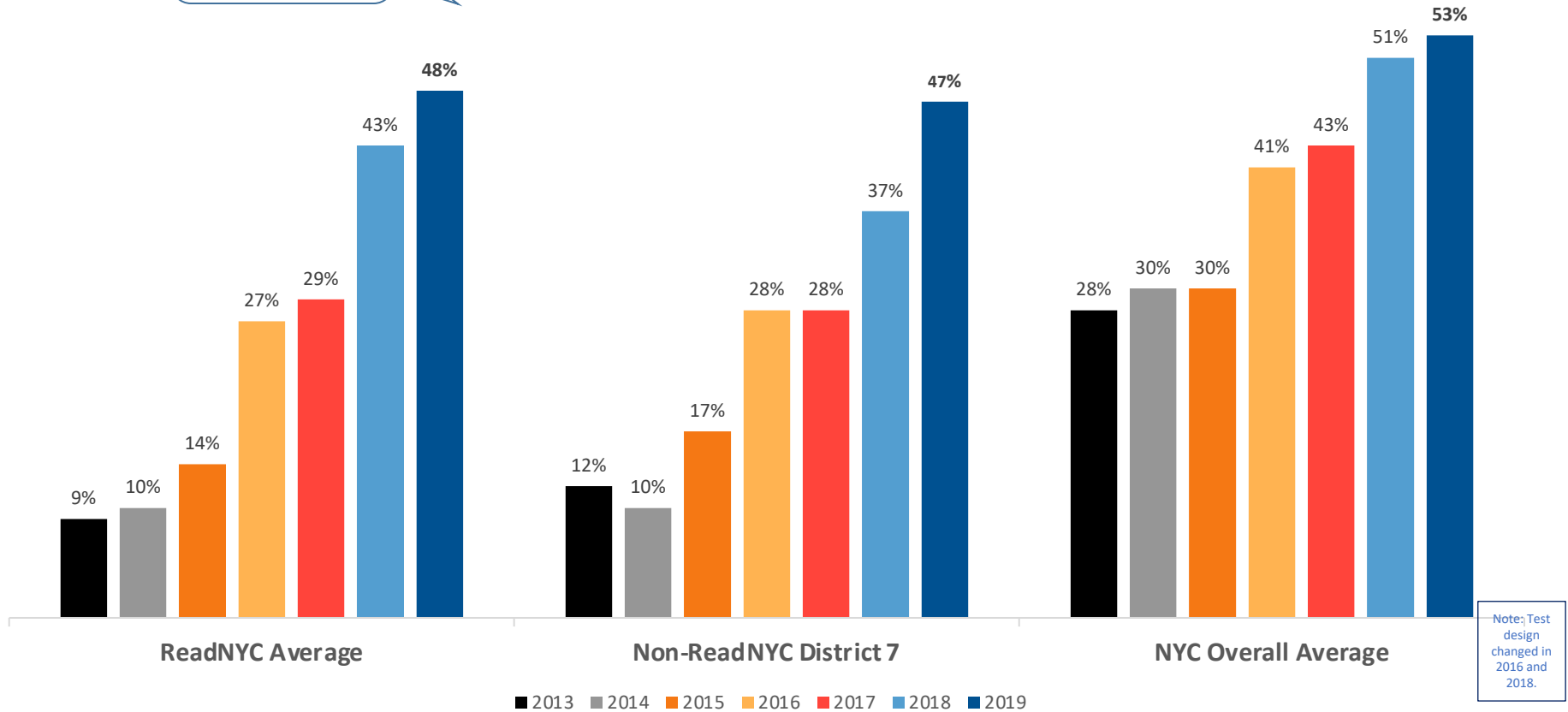
## Students

- Improved **academic outcomes** and **social emotional outcomes**, including:
  - More positive attitudes and behaviors toward school
  - Improved reading skills
  - Increased school attendance and fewer chronic absences
  - Improved health
  - Increased school readiness

# ReadNYC: Impact on Student Reading Proficiency

## 3rd Grade ELA Proficiency Results for READNYC & NYC Schools

3rd grade ELA proficiency in ReadNYC schools increased by 5% from 2018 to 2019 compared to a 2% growth in NYC schools overall



Source: NYC Department of Education public data, 2013-2019. Non-ReadNYC District 7 average reflects 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA performance of about 736 students at 11 schools located in the same South Bronx district as ReadNYC schools. Citywide average reflects 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA performance of more than 66,000 students in 774 public schools.



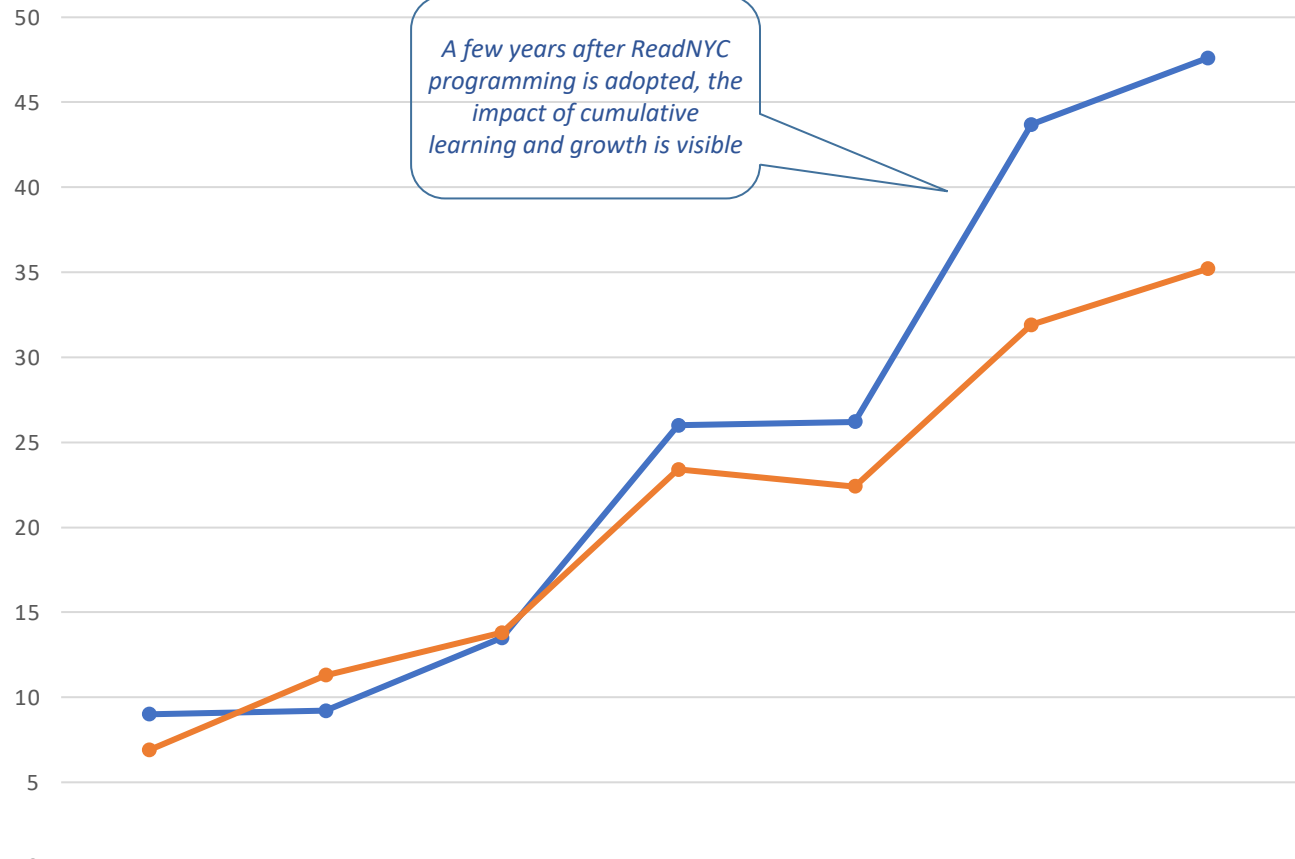
# ReadNYC: Impact on Student Reading Proficiency

## ELA Proficiency

ELA  
Proficiency  
Rate

● % Proficient ReadNYC

● % Proficient ReadNYC Comparison



*A few years after ReadNYC programming is adopted, the impact of cumulative learning and growth is visible*

### Comparison Cohort Criteria:

- <10% ELA Proficiency rate in 2013 (ReadNYC at **9%**)
- >80% of student population identifies as Black or Latino (ReadNYC at **97%**)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
● % Proficient ReadNYC	9	9.2	13.5	26	26.2	43.7	47.6
● % Proficient ReadNYC Comparison	6.9	11.3	13.8	23.4	22.4	31.9	35.2

# Our Response (Summer Rising)

United Way  
of New York City



**Summer Rising** is the city's bold vision for summer and school year learning that will be student-centered, experiential, academically rigorous and culturally responsive and sustaining. Summer Rising brings together the NYC education agencies (DOE, DYCD), and community-based partner organizations in the city's largest summer push in recent history.

*“The big bold vision of Summer Rising is what is needed at this historic moment,” said **Sheena Wright**, President and CEO of United Way of New York City. “An approach that seeks to meet children’s unprecedented academic and social-emotional needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, is essential. The coordinated efforts of community-based organizations working in partnership with schools will provide a strong springboard for the upcoming school year. We are committed to working in partnership with the City of New York and other stakeholders to ensure the success of this important initiative.”*

April 13, 2021, City Hall Press release

# Our Response (Summer Rising)

Once Upon a Summer-Rising is informed by our 7 years of impactful OUS culturally relevant literacy summer programming and the DOE'S citywide 2021 Summer Rising Initiative for all schools. Once Upon a Summer (OUS) is a component of ReadNYC and a literacy and enrichment summer program designed to prevent summer learning loss for ReadNYC students. OUS consists of six weeks of academic and enrichment activities, 1:1 literary instruction, and social and emotional learning opportunities.

OUS-Rising programming includes our successful best practices:

- ✓ Reading Our World Restorative Circles
- ✓ Literacy Learning including Culturally Relevant Read Alouds and Discussion, Guided Reading, and Independent Reading
- ✓ Empowering professional learning for staff
- ✓ Teacher Leadership to guide program planning and implementation
- ✓ Weekly emergency food boxes
- ✓ Individualized Digital Literacy Program
- ✓ A digital math program (new this year)



## Summer Programming of the Past

- 15,000 students participated in 2018
- 350 buildings
- Mandated summer school focused on remediation
- 6hrs of daily programming
- 5 ½ weeks
- DOE academic and DYCD enrichment programming ran separately

## Summer Rising

- Up to 190,000 students can be served
- 700 buildings
- Open to ALL students of all academic levels focused on acceleration, including private school students
- 10hrs of daily programming
- 7 weeks
- DOE and DYCD aligned to provide joint programming

- **Guides the Network's Overarching Vision and Strategy**

- o Works with community members to select and organize community partners and schools for ReadNYC's implementation;
- o Organizes community, cross sector partners around ReadNYC's goals.

- **Establishes Shared Measurement Practices**

- o Along with partner organizations, identifies ReadNYC outcomes using Results-Based Accountability to improve performance and achieve clear impact;
- o Collects and reports on data and results of ReadNYC activities to influence network learning.

- **Supports Aligned Activities**

- o Creates structures for collaborative action, including the facilitation of meetings with ReadNYC partners;
- o Builds capacity of anchor partner, community-organizations, and partner schools in carrying out ReadNYC activities and achieving outcomes.

- **Builds Public Will**

- o Raises awareness of challenges faced in ReadNYC neighborhoods;
- o Amplifies the work of ReadNYC to convene volunteers and resources to support the initiative;
- o Advocates for policy change based on the results of ReadNYC's collective impact approach.

- **Mobilizes Funding**

- o Engages funders in supporting ReadNYC;
- o Raises and solicits funds for ReadNYC through foundation grants, corporate-giving campaigns, government contracts, individuals, and events;
- o Invests in community partners to build their capacity in carrying-out ReadNYC activities.

# Looking Forward and Reflections

# Questions?