

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: Reading Success VISTA

Sponsoring Organization: Achieve Brown County

Project Name: Achieve Brown County II

Project Number: 19VSNWI003

Project Period: 04/24/2022 - 04/22/2023

Site Name: Achieve Brown County

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Education

Secondary: Healthy Futures

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Overall VISTA Project: The Reading Success VISTA will build infrastructure to support a new ABC Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign to increase reading proficiency for kids at third grade. The VISTA will research ABC's history in the early grade reading space, learn about grade level reading campaigns, review the outcomes of our community wide Reading Success Summit, and create infrastructure to grow ABC's work in the early grade reading space through the development of an Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign that does not currently exist. Ultimately, these efforts to formalize ABC's work in the early grade reading space will ensure more children in our community receive quality education and career training to break the cycle of poverty.

Objective of the Assignment

EXPLORATION: Learn about ABC, our parent organization (StriveTogether), and our local community. Research both organizations history and work in the early grade reading space and research the local community to understand resources and organizations involved in this space. Further research grade level reading campaigns to identify best practices from other communities that are engaged in trying to increase reading proficiency for children from birth through third grade. Document research and communicate findings to ABC leadership and gain further direction to move forward with the development of an Action Team/Campaign.

Member Activity (04/24/2022 - 04/22/2023): •Learn the mission, vision, history, and prior early grade reading space work of ABC and its parent organization, StriveTogether. •Research and contact 5-10 other StriveTogether organizations to learn about their work in the Early Grade Reading Space (birth through third grade). •Review any outcomes and learnings from the Reading Success Summit that ABC and the Brown County Library hosted. •Research Grade Level Reading Campaigns and identify best practices for communities that have Grade Level Reading Campaigns. •Connect with 5-10 other communities to interview them about their work with Grade Level Reading Campaigns. •Research Brown County to learn about the existing resources and organizations that have worked with ABC thus far or that work in the reading space from birth through third grade whom we should begin conversations with.

Objective of the Assignment

DEVELOPMENT: Based on the information gathered, develop infrastructure to launch an Early Grade Reading Action Team and a Grade Level Reading Campaign in partnership with the other organizations who have been involved with this work with ABC.

Member Activity (04/24/2022 - 04/22/2023): •Develop a list of the infrastructure needs that will need to be created for the Early Grade Reading Action Team and the Grade Level Reading Campaign. Examples of infrastructure that will need to be developed include asset maps, project management tools, continuous improvement tools, design thinking tools, a fundraising plan, roles & responsibilities for team members, policies or procedures for the work, and more. •Review the infrastructure needs list with ABC leadership and then proceed to begin developing the infrastructure. •From the Brown County research on existing resources and organizations that work in the reading space from birth through third grade, begin having partnership meetings with representatives from each organization to introduce the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign to develop a pool of organizations to include on a broad communications list and as potential Action Team or Grade Level Reading Campaign members.

Objective of the Assignment

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW: Begin implementation of the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign. As implementation is started, test and evaluate different parts of the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign. Revise team/campaign members or infrastructure pieces as needed to ensure long-term success.

Member Activity (04/24/2022 - 04/22/2023): •Convene with the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign work groups. Begin using components of the infrastructure development. Gather feedback through surveys or conversation to understand if infrastructure development was useful, if revisions are needed, or if new, previously unidentified, infrastructure is needed to support the work. •Evaluate the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign members to determine if further member recruitment is needed or if any members that were recruited to the work aren't aligned or the right fit for the work.

Objective of the Assignment

SUSTAINABILITY: Ensure that the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign are both sustainable and will continue at ABC after the completion of the VISTA term by documenting procedures, policies, and workflows as well as defining what people resources (such as interns, ABC staff etc.) will continue the work after the VISTA service year is complete.

Member Activity (04/24/2022 - 04/22/2023): •Develop a manual of resources and directions to maintain the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign in its entirety. •Determine which people resources will sustain the work of the Early Grade Reading Action Team and Grade Level Reading Campaign. •Recruit and train people resources to ensure there is a transition plan for ongoing maintenance of systems and support of the team/campaign.