Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet every year more than 80 percent of low-income children miss this crucial milestone. If left unchecked, this problem will undermine efforts to end intergenerational poverty, close the achievement gap, and reduce high school dropout rates.

Communities must address this problem with a collaborative approach, bringing the education system, libraries, business leaders, social service agencies, parents and parent associations, and policy-makers together cohesively to develop an action plan which addresses the unique needs within that community. These “Community Campaigns” are finding success in 124 communities around the country and are part of a network sponsored by the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading.

This Campaign is a call to action. We hope you will join us.

Agenda

- Third Grade Reading Success Matters
- Keynote: Ron Fairchild, National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
- Panel: Existing Programs and Initiatives in Our Community
- Call to Action
- Building Community Networks
- Next Steps

Ron Fairchild is the President & CEO of the Smarter Learning Group and leads the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading’s Network Community Support Center.