



Black Hills Reads helps to ensure children are proficient readers by the end of third grade.

Black Hills Reads brings together partners across many sectors to strengthen the systems that serve early learners and promote literacy opportunities for children under 9 in the Black Hills.

4 FACTS

about reading proficiency

1 Reading proficiency by 3rd grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success.

2 Only 32% of 4th graders in South Dakota are reading proficiently. ¹

3 Children not reading on grade level by third grade are four times more likely to not graduate on time.

4 Kindergarten and 1st grade are the most chronically absent - missing nearly one month of school over the course of a year. ²

1. 2022 Reading Snapshot Report: South Dakota Grade 4. National Center for Education Statistics.

2. Chronic Elementary Absenteeism: A Problem Hidden in Plain Sight. Institution of Education Sciences. November 2011.

OUR EFFORTS

Awareness activities

- Annual Race to Read Challenge
- Young Writers Contest
- Early Literacy Trails and Story Strolls
- Early learning resource guides for providers and parents.

Program Coordination

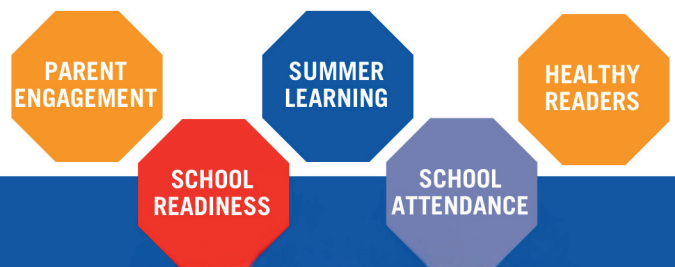
- Young Reader One Book program
- Childcare Networking 'Power Hour' events
- Baby's First Bookbag
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program
- BHR's innovation grants and UWBH Education grants to providers.

Large-scale collaborative efforts

We partner with Early Learner South Dakota efforts by participating in Early Learner Rapid City and providing navigation and funding support for Early Learner Communities throughout the Black Hills.

OUR FOCUS

We focus on five pillar areas to address the challenges of reading achievement.



CONTACT US!



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UNITED WAY
of the Black Hills