



SCHOOL-YEAR STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**NATIONAL REPORT
2021-2022**

OUR THANKS

Frontier College's school-year programs for children and youth are made possible across Canada by the ongoing support of our generous sponsors and partners, including our national book partners, [Scholastic Canada's Classrooms Care Program](#) and [First Book Canada](#).

Bring on the books!

A variety of books at home can **boost reading, writing, math, and problem-solving skills** for children of all ages.¹

In 2021-2022, Frontier College distributed more than **27,000 free, high-quality books** to learners taking part in our school-year programs.



Connect with us!

If you are a parent or guardian looking to learn more about our programs, visit our website to find our closest regional office. If you are interested in volunteering with us, you can find local information on social media, or you can submit a request on our website.

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LITERACY NOW

2021-2022 school-year program summary

Our national school-year programs boost children's reading, writing, and math skills. In-person and online program models include:



One-to-one and small group tutoring, supported by trained volunteer tutors who use a student-centred approach to building skills

Homework clubs and after-school programs that support learners with schoolwork while building connections between school and real-world learning



Reading Circles that support early literacy while encouraging a love of books

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2021-2022, the school year program:



Served **5,546** children and youth from kindergarten to Grade 12 in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia

Mobilized **1,568** volunteer literacy tutors



Delivered **196** free programs in partnership with **126** community partners in **35** communities

Frontier College learners apply more effort, improve their skills, and are more confident, all of which lead to student success.²

LEARNERS

94% of learners said their **literacy skills improved**

92% said their **writing skills improved**

93% said their **math skills improved**

69% said they noticed changes in their ability to **complete schoolwork**

66% of learners say their ability to **get work done on their own has improved**

EDUCATORS

100% of educators surveyed said they noticed **improvements in students' reading and writing skills**

87% noticed **improved skills in math**

PARENTS

90% of parents noticed **improvements in their child's reading skills**

86% noticed **improvements in math**

LITERACY IS VITAL

The need for school-year support

Everyone can learn. But not everyone can access the help they need. Canada's literacy divide widens daily because so many people and communities lack adequate literacy support. These are not just communities defined by location: they are also communities defined by income, by level of education, by culture or identity, or by level of food and shelter security.

Working with partners in these communities, Frontier College can bypass or break down barriers such as transportation, cultural or language differences, and lack of trust. We offer individuals the opportunity to learn and grow through literacy. This was especially true during pandemic lockdowns, when trained volunteers and Frontier College staff members supported learners by phone, online, outdoors, and with home deliveries of books and learning materials. But there is still significant need for school-year programming:

More than one million children in Canada are estimated to have below grade-level reading skills.³

***"Short-term shocks create long-run deficits if students who fall behind stay behind, even as schools reopen."*⁴**

The Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table estimates that each month of lost learning results in a lifetime earnings decrease of 1% for learners affected. This means a 0.5% decrease in the national income per year, translating to a loss of 1.6 trillion CAD for Canada's GDP.⁵



LITERACY LEADS TO CHANGE

Real stories, real impact

Frontier College knows that bridging the literacy gap is something we can do. Our programs are an effective, practical way to change lives, and we work hard to document those changes at personal and program-wide levels. We do this by surveying learners, volunteers, parents, partners, and educators. We also ask people to tell us in their own words how our programs have made a difference for them. Here is some of what we heard from learners, tutors, parents, and community partners in 2021-2022:

[My tutor] motivates me. He always welcomes my questions. I am grateful for all the endeavours that have helped me to overcome the challenges of being a newcomer to Canada. This program has inspired me to continue my dream of becoming an engineer.

— Learner, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Since I started attending the homework club, I have learned division. With my tutor, I want to learn more about science. School has become easier because I have help to do my homework and get it done. — Learner, Toronto, Ontario

I love seeing my learner's sense of achievement when he understood the story we've read. I got to learn new methods for helping him improve his reading comprehension, and he got to learn new vocabulary. — Volunteer Tutor, Montreal, Quebec

[My son's] report card came out on Thursday. For the first time ever, he's received an 'A' in English. The improvement has been amazing. It is a real reflection of your strong working relationship with [my son] to help improve his confidence level. Thank you! — Parent, Edmonton, Alberta

I have had such an amazing experience with Frontier College. This year has been a learning curve for us going completely virtual and the Frontier College team has [been] instrumental in allowing us to continue tutoring services to our youth. These volunteers and coordinators used their experience and expertise to give feedback to our youth on life after high school.

— Community Partner, Scarborough, Ontario

LITERACY IS ACHIEVABLE

Our results equal their success

Participants in our programs have many achievements worth celebrating.
Our 2021-2022 school-year impact evaluations show that:

100% of educators

97% of learners

90% of parents

See improvements in reading



87% of educators

93% of learners

86% of parents

See improvements in math

External evaluation of Frontier College's new mix of online and in-person programs found that, while virtual tutoring wasn't available to everyone, online programs reached learners in more remote or rural areas, allowed for easy sharing of resources, and improved digital skills for some participants, families, and partners.⁶

"The additional support my students have received from Frontier College has helped them immensely. I have noticed the students involved becoming more confident and engaged readers with more tools and strategies to help them make meaning out of what they are reading. Several are beginning to discover the joy of reading. Thank you for providing such a useful and needed program in our school." — Educator, Grande Prairie, Alberta

"I see a great improvement in my daughter. Her grades have gone up and she has this new-found confidence in her. My child is dyslexic, so I worry about how my daughter will do at school. This year is the first time that her teacher has not asked to speak with me. We are very happy!" — Parent, Montreal, Quebec

Literacy changes lives, one learner at a time. As Frontier College moves forward, our learning and successes will allow us to continue to offer high-quality, free tutoring programs wherever and however we can. Having children and youth with the skills and strengths necessary to thrive unleashes potential that benefits individuals, families, and communities.

Literacy changes everything.

Other resources

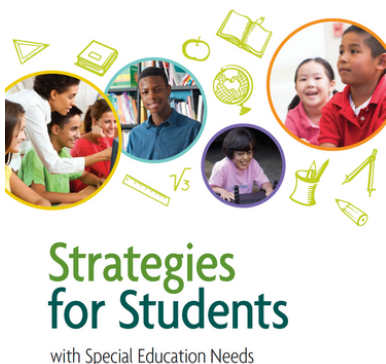
Financial Literacy Guides and Resources



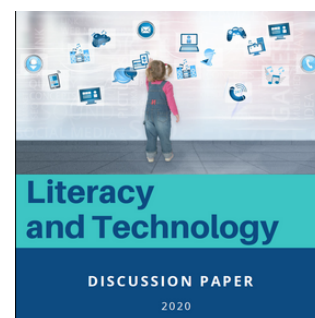
Discussion Paper on Literacy and Mental Health



Strategies for Students with Special Needs



Discussion Paper on Literacy and Technology



References

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- [2] Cathexis Consulting Inc. "Evaluation of Frontier College's Digital Tutoring Supports." Final Report. 2021. Document.
- [3] Deloitte LLP. "An Economic Overview of Children's Literacy in Canada." Report presented to the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation. November, 2020.
- [4] Gallagher-Mackay, Kelly, Pratchi Srivastava and Underwood Kathryn et al. "COVID-19 and Education Disruption in Ontario: Emerging Evidence on Impacts." June, 2021.
- [5] Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel. "Prioritizing Learning During Covid-19: The Most Effective Ways to Keep Children Learning During and Post-Pandemic." 2022. Online.
- [6] Cathexis Consulting Inc. "Evaluation of Frontier College's Digital Tutoring Supports." Final Report. 2021. Document.