



SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021 | 3:40-4:00 PM ET

# Leveraging Integrated and Holistic Learning Solutions to Support Literacy

## PRESENTERS:

- Cameron White, NewSchools Venture Fund





# Literacy Solutions that Empower Students

October 2021

# NewSchools' investment model

## FOUR INVESTMENT AREAS

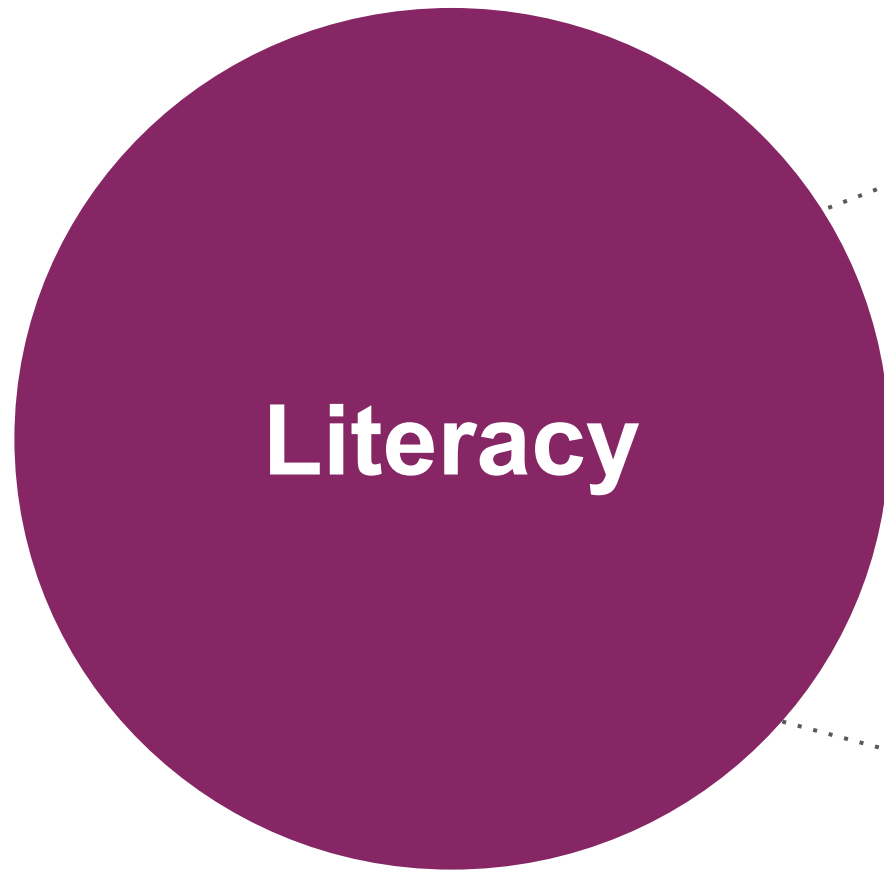


### Cross-cutting priorities

- Expanding the definition of student success
- Centering equity
- Funding Black and Latino education innovators
- Financial and Non-financial support
- Thought leadership

NewSchools supports tools, content,  
and models that increase equity by  
accelerating positive outcomes for  
Black, Latino, and low-income students.

# Literacy is key driver of equity, empowerment, and learning



**A lever for equity**

**Empowers students**

**Unlocks learning**



# Demand for new types of literacy solutions

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- Too many literacy learning experiences are neither [culturally responsive](#) nor [aligned with research](#)
  - COVID-19 has had disproportionate effects on historically underserved students, especially in regard to [literacy development](#)
  - [ESSER funding](#) can align spending power with [equity-centered solutions](#)
  - Significant [investment capital is available](#), yet racially diverse leaders are being [structurally excluded](#) from funding pathways

# Building a portfolio of early-stage, equity-centered solutions

## By the numbers...

In 2021, we invested \$2m in 10 literacy solutions.

1/3 leaders identify as Black or Latino; 3/4 as people of color; 56% as female or nonbinary

70% of organizations are led by former educators; 50% are receiving first-ever external investment

## Learning Solutions literacy portfolio



# Literacy content & tools: Investment theses

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- Supporting educators and parents to implement research-based instructional strategies
- Enhancing cultural relevance and diverse representation
- Leveraging the power of 1-1 or small group literacy instruction
- Targeting the needs of specific student subgroups



# Supporting educators and parents to implement research-based instructional strategies

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The Literacy Architects develop Literacy Masterminds, a series of virtual learning cycles through which teachers receive step-by-step guidance on implementing evidence-based reading practices aligned with their school's curriculum.

# Enhancing cultural relevance and diverse representation

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Words Liive offers The Opus, an application which integrates music, via song lyrics, into reading and writing assignments alongside auto-generated, comprehensive supplemental materials.

# Leveraging the power of 1-1 or small group literacy instruction

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# Readlee

Readlee is an independent reading platform that uses AI to measure and report data such as accuracy, vocabulary, pace, and text completion.

# Targeting the needs of specific student subgroups

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Evision Academy Programs offers a Braille-based literacy program to support blind and visually limited learners, in both public and homeschool settings.

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and models that increase equity by  
accelerating positive outcomes for  
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Questions?





The background is a dense collage of various photographs from the Aurora Institute Symposium 2019. The images show a large number of people, mostly in professional or business attire, engaged in various activities: some are standing and talking, some are sitting at tables, some are looking at laptops or tablets, and some are posing for photos. The collage is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The Aurora Institute logo, featuring a stylized star and the word 'AURORA', is visible in the top left corner of the collage. The text 'INSTITUTE' and 'Symposium' are also visible in the top right corner of the collage.

# AURORA INSTITUTE *Symposium*

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OCTOBER 25-27, 2021 | VIRTUAL

*“Leading Competency-Based Education Redesign”*

Thank you for joining us!

**Share Your Thoughts.**

Participate in our one-minute poll (link in chat box).