



Overtown Reads Impact Report

An early literacy initiative of the Overtown Children & Youth Coalition — building a community where every child arrives at kindergarten ready to read.

Program launch: November 17, 2025

overtowncyc.org



ALL ABOARD!
THE OVERTOWN
READING TRAIN

About Overtown Reads

Fostering a love for reading from the very beginning in the Overtown community.

To support families from the prenatal stage through age five, the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition launched Overtown Reads. This initiative is launching to help ignite a love of books and reading in our youngest learners.

Since its inception, Overtown Reads has brought together families, community partners, educators, volunteers, and stakeholders to advance literacy outcomes for young children.

EARLY LITERACY

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP



The Primary Goals of Overtown Reads

- 1 Promoting early childhood literacy and language development
- 2 Encouraging daily reading habits among children and families
- 3 Increasing access to age-appropriate books and literacy resources
- 4 Strengthening family engagement around reading and learning
- 5 Supporting kindergarten readiness and educational success
- 6 Raising community awareness about the importance of early literacy
- 7 Connecting families to educational and community resources



Activities & Engagement

Activities and engagement efforts have included:



1

**Fun-filled
read-aloud sessions**



2

**Book giveaways
and literacy
resource
distributions**



3

**Parent engagement
opportunities**



4

**Library card
registration and
promotion efforts**



5

**Partnerships with
organizations
committed to early
learning and child
development**

Where We Read

Partner schools and early learning centers that have hosted Overtown Reads sessions include:



Phillis Wheatley Elementary School



Frederick Douglass Elementary School



YWCA South Florida

5 sessions delivered to date — all reported sessions hosted at YWCA South Florida.

Impact at a Glance

17

Total Overtown Reads
Sessions

108

Adult & Parent
Attendees

335

Youth Attendees

368

Books Distributed

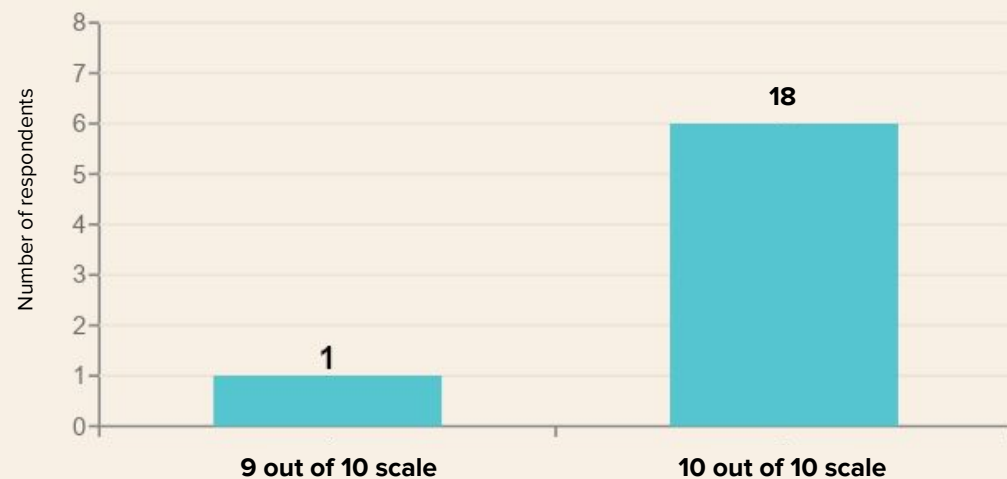
Source: OCYC Overtown Reads Initiative dashboard (UpMetrics), last updated August 10, 2026.



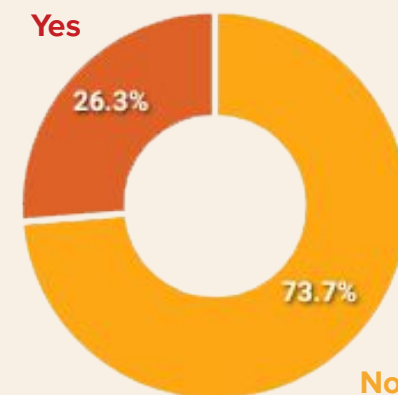
What Our Partners Told Us

19 Partner Surveys

● On a scale from 1–10, how valuable do you think the Overtown Reads Initiative is?



● Is this your first time attending an Overtown Reads Event?



Source: UpMetrics partner survey.

In Our Partners' Words

“The most important years of a child's life are in the first 5 years. It is imperative to instill a love for learning and reading at a young age in order to build the foundation for success.

“Participating in Overtown Reads allowed me to see the value in reading to young children and improving their engagement with books and literacy. The students were excited and engaged during the reading! It was a great experience.

“This initiative is very valuable to support children's engagement in reading and literacy, specifically in areas at risk for academic challenges. The students were excited and engaged in the reading activity. Some of the students stated that they had received multiple books and were reading at home.

“Overtown Reads provides students who are often underprivileged yet still very eager, additional opportunities to read and discover new books and stories. It gives them time and possibility beyond the classroom to immerse into a great story that they can learn from, and teaches them to love reading even more.

Foundational Partners

Foundational partners in launching and supporting this initiative include:



The Children's Trust



Da-Venya Armstrong
CEO, Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc.



The Early Learning Coalition

Guest Readers & Community Partners

Additional community partners and volunteers who have actively participated in and supported by being guest readers in our reading sessions include:

Paulina Cepedes, Librarian and Sara Capotes, Youth Services Specialist

Miami Dade Culmer Library Partners

Dr. Lovely Noel

Director of High School, College & Careers Initiative, Overtown Youth Center

Esther Louis

President & CEO, Metro Mommy Agency

Mr. Ed Holland

Representative, Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce Education Committee

Nicole Crooks

Community Engagement Manager (Overtown Division), Catalyst Miami

Mrs. Cathy Williams

Former Principal of Phillis Wheatley Elementary and Community Advocate





THANK YOU...

...to every family, partner, educator, and volunteer building a reading community in Overtown.

OVERTOWN
children & youth coalition

ALL ABOARD!
THE OVERTOWN
READING TRAIN

overtowncyc.org