Stern Center
for Language and Learning

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The Stern Center for Language and Learning: www.sterncenter.org

- Nonprofit, private, founded in 1983, annual budget ~$5M
- Based in Williston with expanded reach through virtual programs
- Mission is 2-part: learning for teachers, learning for all students

Professional Learning for individual teachers and school/district cohorts:

- Customized learning/coaching, not a curriculum or one-size-fits-every-teacher
- Literacy experts, for general classrooms and specialized teaching/special ed
- Promoting neurodiversity-affirming teaching practices
- Grants to help educators and schools afford the cost of staying current
- Core belief: teachers are role models for learning who can help every child

In the last school year, we supported more than 2,250 teachers, almost 1,100 here in Vermont. We reached 94% of VT school districts.

Services for Kids & Families

Direct teaching. Helping students one-on-one in reading, writing, math, speech therapy, social understanding, and academic success.

Evaluations. Testing for disabilities and differences that affect learning, such as dyslexia, ADHD, autism, dyscalculia, and processing challenges.

Income-based aid for families: Awarding $200k+ annually thanks to philanthropy.

Key Points on the Science of Reading / Educator Coaching & Learning

- ✓ The Science of Reading is the consensus across research fields about what works best in teaching reading to all learners. The Stern Center's practices and programs have been based on this knowledge for 40+ years.
- ✓ Recent years have increased public awareness of, and seen growing legislative interest in, accountability on reading success.
- ✓ There is, in fact, a reading crisis. State and federal measures show 1/3-2/3 of Vermont kids are NOT reading at grade level. Our Vermont data on reading proficiency is average at best, and trending downward.
- ✓ An estimated 80% of the learning issues requiring special education are difficulties of language and literacy.
- ✓ The Stern Center believes that dedicated teachers deserve practical ways to learn about what works, implement impactful changes in their classrooms, and reap the benefits of literacy success for their students and themselves.
- ✓ We plan and deliver together with school leaders as trusted partners. Improvement initiatives are based on the needs of specific teachers and students; and goals, budgets, and timelines are driven by their reality.
- ✓ Small group and individual coaching for teachers is the secret sauce of reading instruction that reaches every child. Educator coaching in our model builds trust, requires active learning, creates practical plans, and combines data and reflection so that precious time and money is laser focused on where reading succeeds or fails: in our classrooms.