



## BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER

August 2025

### A MESSAGE FROM HEATHER

Greetings friends and community members,

The Literacy Lab team spent two weeks in July reflecting on the 2024-25 school year and how we intend to use the lessons we learned throughout to ensure we remain a healthy and vibrant organization in the years ahead. I am continuously proud of how we handled challenges and setbacks, remaining steadfast in our core purpose: to ensure evidence-based literacy instruction for our youngest learners, while investing in emerging educators who reflect our students' identities and lived experiences. While navigating continuous change, we served over 1700 students and more than 100 Fellows. We watched dear friends and colleagues leave with deep appreciation for their creativity, perseverance, and commitment to putting the organization first. As I said to our team when we convened:

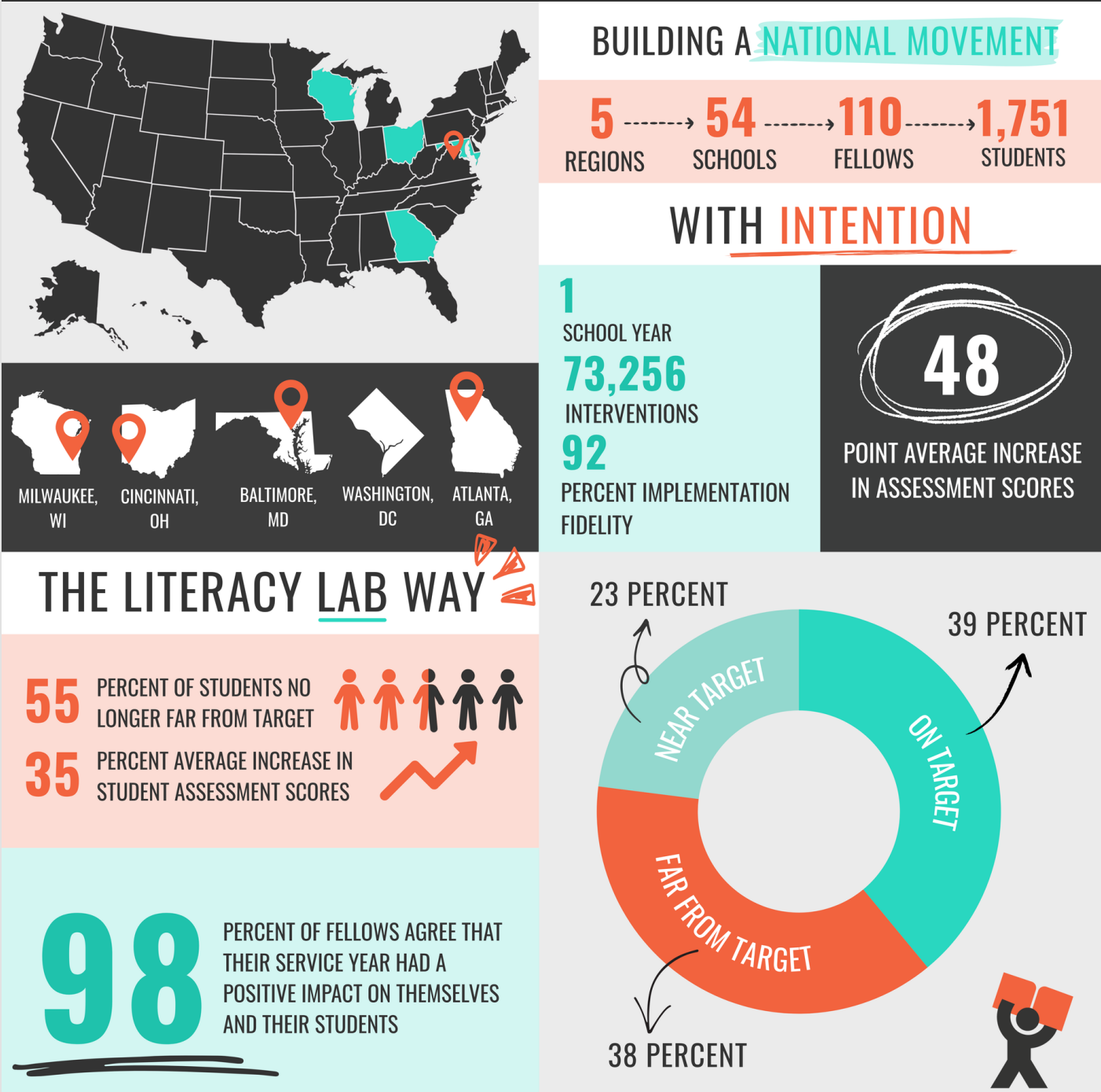
The more uncertainty we face, the more we must meet it with hope, possibility, and abundance. Our students, Fellows, and communities deserve nothing less. I believe in you, and I believe in us. We are still here; we are still able to do critically important work, despite all the universe has thrown at us, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

On behalf of The Literacy Lab, thank you for your support, partnership, and trust.

*Heather Jenkins*

Heather Jenkins, President and Chief Executive Officer

### END OF YEAR DATA AT A GLANCE



### FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

"With my heart being the fullest it has ever been, I am elated to announce the completion of my 1-year Fellowship with The Literacy Lab.

Being a Leading Men Fellow has been **the highest calling of my life** – to tend to and serve one of the most important demographics in my community: young children.

The Literacy Lab came to my high school, searching for potential Fellows willing to fight the uphill battle of illiteracy. I was unsure about taking the role, but a flame sparked within me; the drive to better my community overcame me, and I was up for the challenge to intervene in the hearts of the children of my community.

Before I entered the classroom, only one of my students could write their name. After only 2 months of specialized instruction, 100% of my students not only knew how to write their name, but were looking forward to writing it every single day, singing songs, and reading stories.

**My students have been my drive this year.** I am comfortable knowing that they can move on in their academic careers equipped with the foundational skills I have instilled in all of them. I love every single one of them, and my mission is complete.

Thank you to the staff, Literacy Coaches, all of my brothers, and all of my students for allowing me a platform to better myself – and, most importantly, my community."

MICHAEL, 2024-25 ATLANTA FELLOW

### LOOKING AHEAD



As we close out a successful school year, we're already looking ahead with energy and excitement to the year to come. The 2025-26 school year marks a meaningful transition for us as we honor and sunset the Leading Men Fellowship name, recognizing the powerful legacy it leaves behind. Moving forward, this work will continue as The Fellowship – a name that reflects both the evolution of our program and our deepened connection to the communities we serve. While the name is changing, **our commitment to Fellows, students, and schools remains as strong as ever.**

We're thrilled to welcome new Fellows from across our regions, who will soon begin preparing to support students through high-impact early literacy instruction. Recruitment for the upcoming cohort is well underway, and training for new Fellows will begin on September 29. Fellows will officially begin their service in classrooms starting October 14, ready to jump in and **help grow our youngest readers.**



### THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Your investment in our mission has made it possible for Fellows to deliver consistent, high-quality support to thousands of students across the country. Your commitment has helped ensure that more students receive the tools they need to become confident readers, and that early-career professionals have the support they need to launch their careers in ways they never could have dreamed.

We are especially grateful for the trust you place in us. As we prepare to begin a new chapter, we look forward to continuing this important work together, and to deepening the partnerships that make progress possible. **We look forward to all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.**

With gratitude,  
The Literacy Lab Team

### THE LITERACY LAB



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