

2025-2026

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

UF | Lastinger Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



From the Director

We were delighted to see Florida reach a new high-water mark in student achievement this past year and to support the successes earned by our state's students and educators. Our faculty and associates have been hard at work this year, advancing the quality of education by administering state programs for students, families, and communities, and by serving educators with top-tier professional learning opportunities in early childhood, literacy, and mathematics.

Key milestones in 2025-26 include the Florida Tutoring Advantage completing its first full school year, serving more than 44,000 students across 36 districts. Also, our Math Matrix Micro-Credential more than doubled its reach in its second year, and New Worlds Reading delivered over 3.5 million books to more than 360,000 Florida students. We also proudly rebranded our professional learning products as Lastinger Learning to honor our founders, Allen and Delores Lastinger.

Please explore this report to see the impact we've made together over the last year.

Phil Poekert, Ph.D.

Lastinger Center Reach

This year we served



1M+

Students

24K+

Educators

745+

District coaches, leaders,
and administrators

1.2K+

Community events

Our learners completed



1M+

Hours of
coursework

10K+

Micro-credentials

1.5K+

Teaching
endorsements

We sent out



3.5M+

Books & reading
resources

14K+

Stipends

80K+

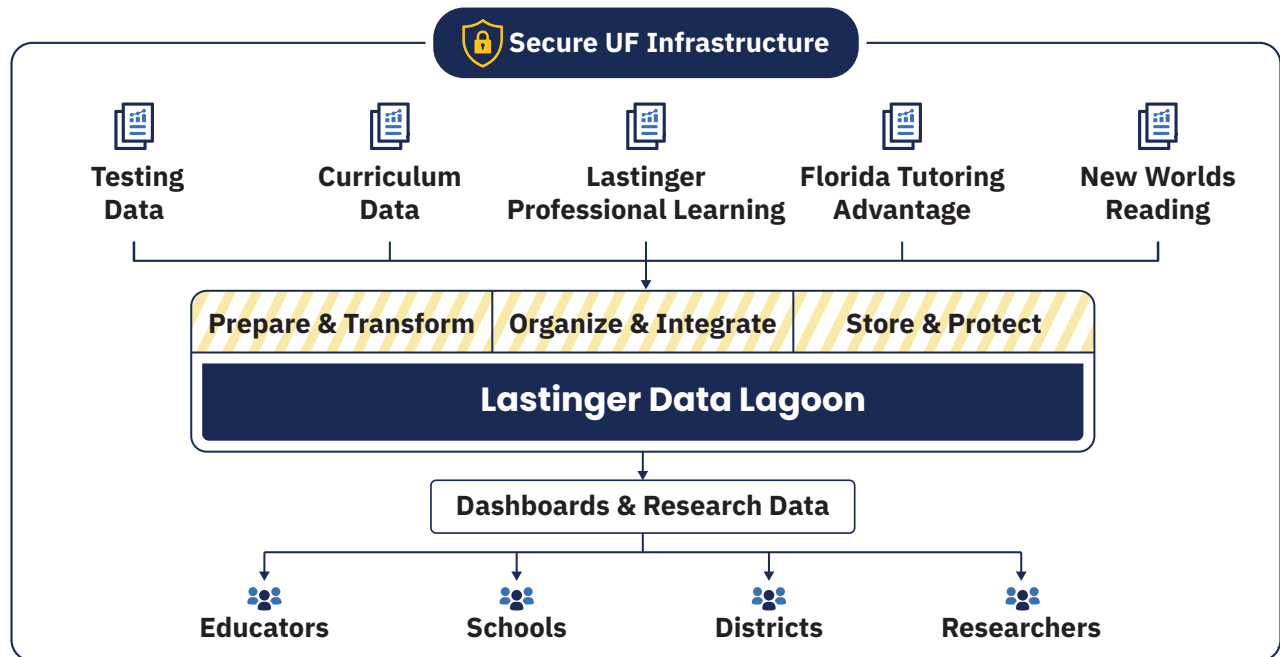
Reading tips
via text

Research, Data, and Technology

Data & Research Infrastructure

Since 2021, the Lastinger Center Data Lagoon has ingested, integrated, and packaged education data for research and analysis. Forging new connections with districts and education vendors through the rollout of the GARRS Universal Data Sharing Agreement, we have further grown and enhanced the secure infrastructure, integrating 15 data sources and billions of unique records to generate insights into what works for Florida's learners and how that builds Florida's future.

Lastinger Center Data Lagoon Architecture



GARRS Universal Data Sharing

Guidance and Agreement for Data Harmony, Responsibility, Retention, and Sharing

Developed in partnership with the AIMS Collaboratory, the GARRS universal data sharing agreement is a **free resource** intended to serve as a standard agreement for schools, districts, researchers, and solutions providers. This universal data sharing agreement:

1. Ensures parents are aware of how their student's data is being shared by schools/districts.
2. Ensures that all school district partners consistently uphold the highest level of safety and security when receiving and handling student data.
3. Reduces time and legal and administrative costs to create a data sharing agreement.
4. Increases secure data availability for research.
5. Supports small districts with a template already vetted and approved by legal entities and other districts.

Professional Learning

Early Childhood

More than 7,000 early childhood educators improved their practice with UF Lastinger Center programs during 2025-26. Through in-person training, ongoing communities of practice and over 1,000 hours of online content in English and Spanish, there’s something to help every early learning educator, coach, or director enhance their skills.

2025–2026 Progress

Online Courses 4,230 educators from 64 counties took one or more early childhood online, on-demand courses to improve their practice.	Coaching Certification 86 new coaches and 148 certified coaches earned or renewed their certification.	Communities of Practice Facilitator Training 50 new and 137 returning facilitators built skills to facilitate communities of practice with their staff and peers.
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Literacy Micro–Credential Spotlight

The Literacy Micro-Credentials equip birth to 12th grade instructional personnel with the skills to identify literacy difficulties and determine appropriate interventions, apply evidence-based practices, and effectively use progress monitoring and intervention materials.

Over 8,000 educators successfully completed a Literacy Micro–Credential and earned a \$1,000 stipend in the 2025–26 academic year.

2025–2026 Literacy Micro–Credential Participation by Track

Emergent
2,398

Elementary
4,556

Secondary
1,959

Literacy

In addition to the Literacy Micro-Credentials, the UF Lastinger Center continues to support learners with online, on-demand professional learning pathways that lead to earning their Reading Endorsement or Florida's Literacy Coach Endorsement.

- **278** literacy coaches earned the Florida Literacy Coach Endorsement.
- **386** Florida teachers improved their literacy instruction at New Worlds Reading teacher institutes across the state.
- **1,236** teachers across Florida earned Reading Endorsements through the Literacy Matrix.

Mathematics

The UF Lastinger Center doubled the reach of the new Math Matrix Micro-Credential to improve mathematics education by building teachers' content and instructional knowledge. Participants completed 60 hours of professional learning that enhanced their instructional skill mastery and earned a \$1,000 stipend upon successful completion.

2025–2026 Participation

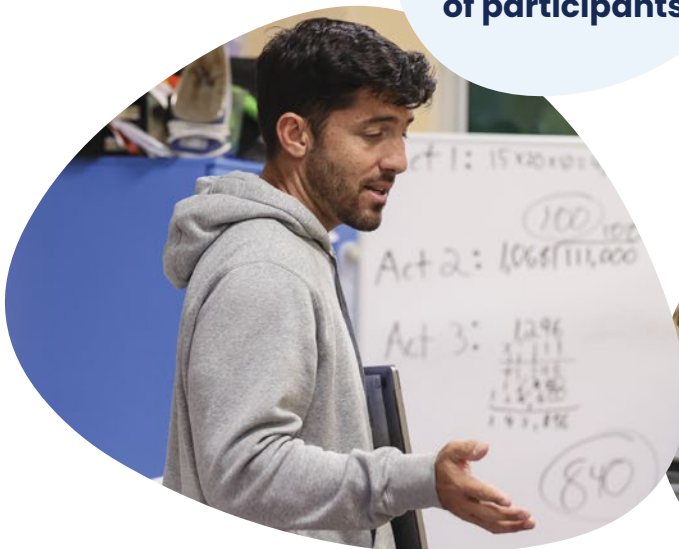
1,286 Teachers	68 Districts	739 Schools
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over
90%
of participants

Were satisfied with
their learning

Considered the content
relevant to their work

Used what they learned
with their students



New Worlds Reading

New Worlds Reading is Florida's free at-home literacy program to help eligible¹ Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) through 5th grade children in Florida bolster literacy skills, build reading confidence, and foster a lifelong love of reading.

We offer:

- A **free book each month** (October through June) tailored to the child's interests.
- **Resources and activities** carefully designed for families to use together to nurture children's literacy skills and increase caregivers' confidence and capacity.
- Caregiver workshops and community literacy events to engage with children and families. **Over 1,200 held in 2025-2026!**
- **Professional learning** opportunities for educators.

Enrolled students earned up to **11% higher FAST reading scores** than their eligible non-enrolled peers.

	Since Program Creation in October 2021	In the 2025–2026 School Year
 Students served statewide	595,000+	360,000+
 Households served statewide	510,000+	312,000+
 Books shipped	15M+	3.5M+

"It's wonderful because my daughter gets excited every time she receives a new book! It is also great because they are free and the books have a lot of information that my daughter gets to learn new things from."

– Colleen G.



¹ Students qualify if they are VPK - 5th graders in a VPK program, public school, or charter school, who have tested below grade level in reading at any point since August 2021. Students are still eligible even if their scores improve, and there's no income requirement to participate!

Florida Tutoring Advantage

Florida Tutoring Advantage helps Florida school districts establish high-impact tutoring programs for students not yet on grade level in reading and/or math. The program pilot launched in spring of 2025 and implemented its first full school year of services in 2025-26.

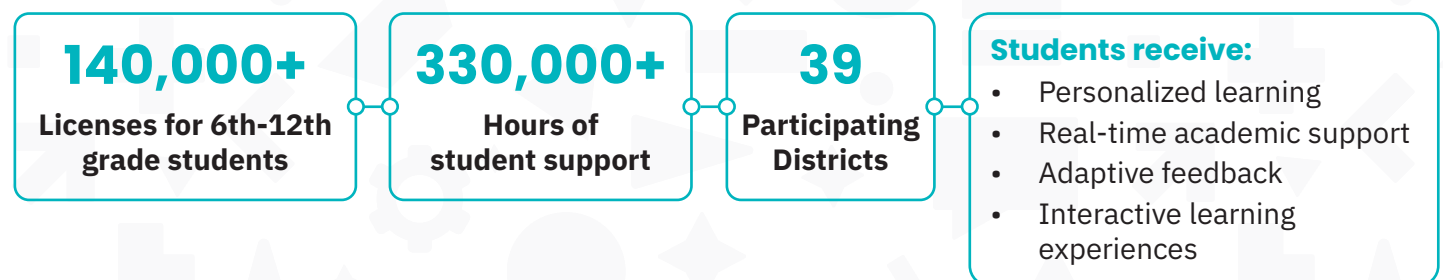
Services were provided in 3 modalities: in-person tutoring, instructor-led virtual tutoring, and automated software.

24 Vendor Partners	36 School Districts	44,000+ Students	160,000+ Sessions	260,000+ Hours
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Participating Districts: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Duval, Escambia, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, IDEA Charter, Lafayette, Lake, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Sarasota, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Volusia, Wakulla, Washington

Artificial Intelligence support for students and teachers through Khan Academy's Khanmigo

Through a partnership with Khan Academy and school districts across the state, the Lastinger Center has implemented F.S. 1002.321(3) to extend high-quality learning support at scale. Khanmigo empowers students through interactive learning experiences and allows teachers to leverage AI to enhance instruction.



Participating Districts: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hendry, Hernando, Hillsborough, Holmes, IDEA Charter, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, Sumter, Suwannee, UF Lab School, Volusia, Wakulla, Washington

“

I know it's important to have student-centered instruction, but this module did a great job in touching on how I can do a better job at it.

– **Secondary Math Educator**

“

This program stands out as one of the best learning experiences for my career that I have had.

– **Florida Literacy Coach Endorsement Participant**

“

Everything I have learned during this course has been of great importance to my professional growth and my work as a teacher.

– **Early Childhood Learner**

The UF Lastinger Center for Learning strengthens education by building strategic partnerships, advocating for change, and fostering community engagement. We are committed collaborators who believe in the power of relationships to drive progress. Our research and data science initiatives support innovation, connect systems, and improve learning outcomes. These efforts have led to impactful professional development programs for educators serving children from birth through 12th grade. With two decades of trusted leadership, we administer major statewide initiatives, New Worlds Reading and Florida Tutoring Advantage, demonstrating our commitment to supporting learners and educators across Florida.



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