

The Cranford Public School District's

Cranford Reading Academy

The Cranford Reading Academy (CRA) is an early intervention evidence-based reading program that significantly improves the ability to read of students in grades 1-8 with severe reading disabilities. An example of a disability the CRA addresses is dyslexia—a neurological-based learning disability that impairs a person's ability to process sounds of letters into words.

How the Program Works

Seven state-licensed teachers, trained in the multi-sensory phonics-based Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading, meet one-on-one with 28 students on Saturdays from September to May to improve students' word attack (word-level phonetic decoding skills), word identification (the ability to read isolated real words), passage comprehension (the ability to understand the passage including inferred meanings), and reading fluency (the ability to recognize and sound out words quickly).

The program, which has supported since its 2004 inception more than 160 students (based not on ethnicity, sex, income level, or ability to pay, but solely on NEED), seeks to provide intervention at the moment an issue surfaces, and when the greatest progress can typically be made. In addition to bringing students up to (and beyond, in some cases) grade level, the program also has succeeded in increasing students' volume of independent voluntary reading. In 2007, the New Jersey School Boards Association voted the CRA an "Exemplary Practice" in special education for program efficacy and its unique public-private partnership.

Is the CRA right for my child?

Parents or guardians of children attending the Cranford Public Schools who believe the Cranford Reading Academy might be right for their child should contact Dr. James L. McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, at mclaughlin@cranfordschools.org to learn more about the program.

Help us help the children

Companies, individuals, and community organizations interested in becoming a CRA program sponsor should contact Susan Caruso Green, Grant Specialist, Cranford Public Schools, 132 Thomas Street, Cranford, NJ 07016, Telephone: 908-709-6207, and Email: susan.caruso@cranfordschools.org.

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We are grateful for the support of our sponsors. Without their support, this reading enrichment project would not be possible!

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