



# EVALUATION OF LITERACY PLUS

## ADOLESCENT LITERACY PROJECT BRIEF

### THE PROJECT

This project is funded through a *Department of Education*, Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program mid-phase grant awarded to the **Northern Humboldt Union High School District** in 2025.

PRG, in collaboration with Century Analytics, is serving as the external evaluator for the grant and has designed an implementation, impact, and cost evaluation of Literacy Plus, a professional learning, coaching, and high-impact tutoring model to support adolescent readers in high school English classes.

### SETTING & PARTICIPANTS

- 12 rural high schools across 6 counties in Northern California
- 9th and 10th grade English teachers
- Regional high-impact tutors
- 3,200 9th and 10th grade students who entered high school reading below grade level



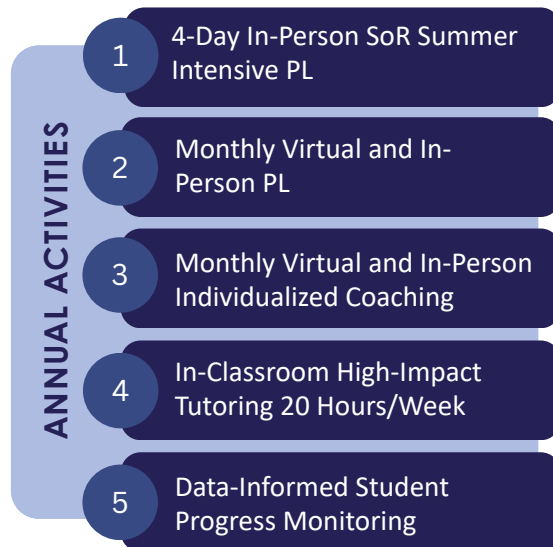
Cal Poly  
**Humboldt.**



### THE PROGRAM

Literacy Plus aims to promote reading growth and academic success of students entering high school reading below grade level. Literacy Plus will bring The New Teacher Project's (TNTP) Science of Reading (SoR) Training for Secondary Educators, an intensive professional learning (PL) program with ongoing coaching, to English 9 and 10 teachers in rural high schools. Literacy Plus will be implemented over four school years with 24 teachers serving over 3,000 struggling readers. SoR instruction emphasizes three levels of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to provide increasingly targeted instruction for students at greater need. Each teacher trained by TNTP will be paired with a trained high-impact tutor to provide ongoing Tier 1 classroom instruction, Tier 2 small-group intervention, and Tier 3 individualized tutoring.

Literacy Plus will use an Initial Adopter and First Follower model to stagger training in each high school. By the end of the project, trained teachers will serve as models and coaches for their fellow teachers to set up a whole-school system of support for teachers to incorporate explicit literacy instruction into their classrooms.



### THE STUDY

PRG & Century Analytics will conduct a rigorous impact and implementation evaluation of the Literacy Plus program's effect on ninth and tenth grade student outcomes. The impact study is an individual-level randomized controlled trial (RCT) where eligible rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be randomly assigned to be offered LP in English 9 (initial treatment), English 10 (delayed treatment), or business-as-usual English 9 and 10 (control).

Students will be eligible for the study if in eighth grade they scored in the on watch or intervention levels on their eighth grade Winter (mid-year) district-administered reading assessment (e.g., Star, Map).

Program impact will be measured on the following outcomes at the end of 9th and 10th grades:



Reading comprehension



English and World History course grades and GPA