

Impact Statement – 3DE by Junior Achievement in Orange County, FL

At Ocoee High, students launched real businesses during Market Expo Day, including “Stay Frosty” and “Chocolate Nibbles.” These ventures taught teamwork, marketing, and problem-solving, giving students confidence and career-ready skills. Last year, one 3DE student leveraged these experiences to earn **over \$1 million in college scholarships**, proving the program’s power to transform opportunities and futures.

Impact Statement – Gotha Middle School eSports Program: Teacher Impact Grant

Gotha Middle School’s eSports program grew from competing on the principal’s **Nintendo Wii** to a recognized sport thanks to matching grant funding. New equipment boosted morale and performance, leading the team to **2nd place in the District Mario Kart Championship** and the **Super Smash Bros quarterfinals**. Without this expansion, students wouldn’t have an outlet to explore possibilities in technology and gaming fields or envision pathways beyond to secondary education. Today, eSports fosters teamwork, strategic thinking, and confidence—creating an inclusive, tech-driven space that prepares students for success.

Impact Statement – Read2Succeed

Celebrating its **25th year**, Read2Succeed serves **4,000 K–3 students in 130 schools** with evidence-based literacy tutoring. The program thrives thanks to **160+ volunteers**, including an inspiring **82-year-old retired teacher** who has been with us for five years. She commands her students’ attention, earns their respect and love, and treats them as her own—pouring every bit of energy into their success. Tutors deliver targeted support in phonics, fluency, and vocabulary, helping students achieve measurable gains like **25+ points on FAST subtests** and **30 CWPM fluency growth**.

Beyond these milestones, Read2Succeed’s impact is extraordinary:

- **Powered by 4,000 volunteers** who showed up week after week
- **Reaching nearly 32,000 students** with one-on-one reading support
- **Inspiring a love of literacy** through **735,675 books read**
- **Fueling lifelong learning** with more than **22,000,000 minutes read**

Without this program, thousands of struggling readers would lack the support needed to close achievement gaps and envision success beyond elementary school. Read2Succeed remains a proven, sustainable model for literacy advancement—empowering students and strengthening our community.

Impact Statement – EcoClub

EcoClub is transforming STEM education and environmental stewardship at a few Title I schools. Over **100 students** now lead sustainability projects like hydroponic gardening and pollinator habitats, driving academic gains—ELA up to **80%**, math to **79%**, and science to **67%** proficiency. Through its **farm-to-table initiative**, students grow food, earn certification to feed rescued animals at SeaWorld, and experience unforgettable moments—like a **sleepover near sea turtles**, creating lifelong memories. Matching funds made partnerships possible for camping and Everglades learning, deepening environmental knowledge. EcoClub builds critical thinking, leadership, and real-world skills—preparing students for future careers in STEM and conservation.