



Hacktivate Mesa

PROJECT BOOK BUDDY

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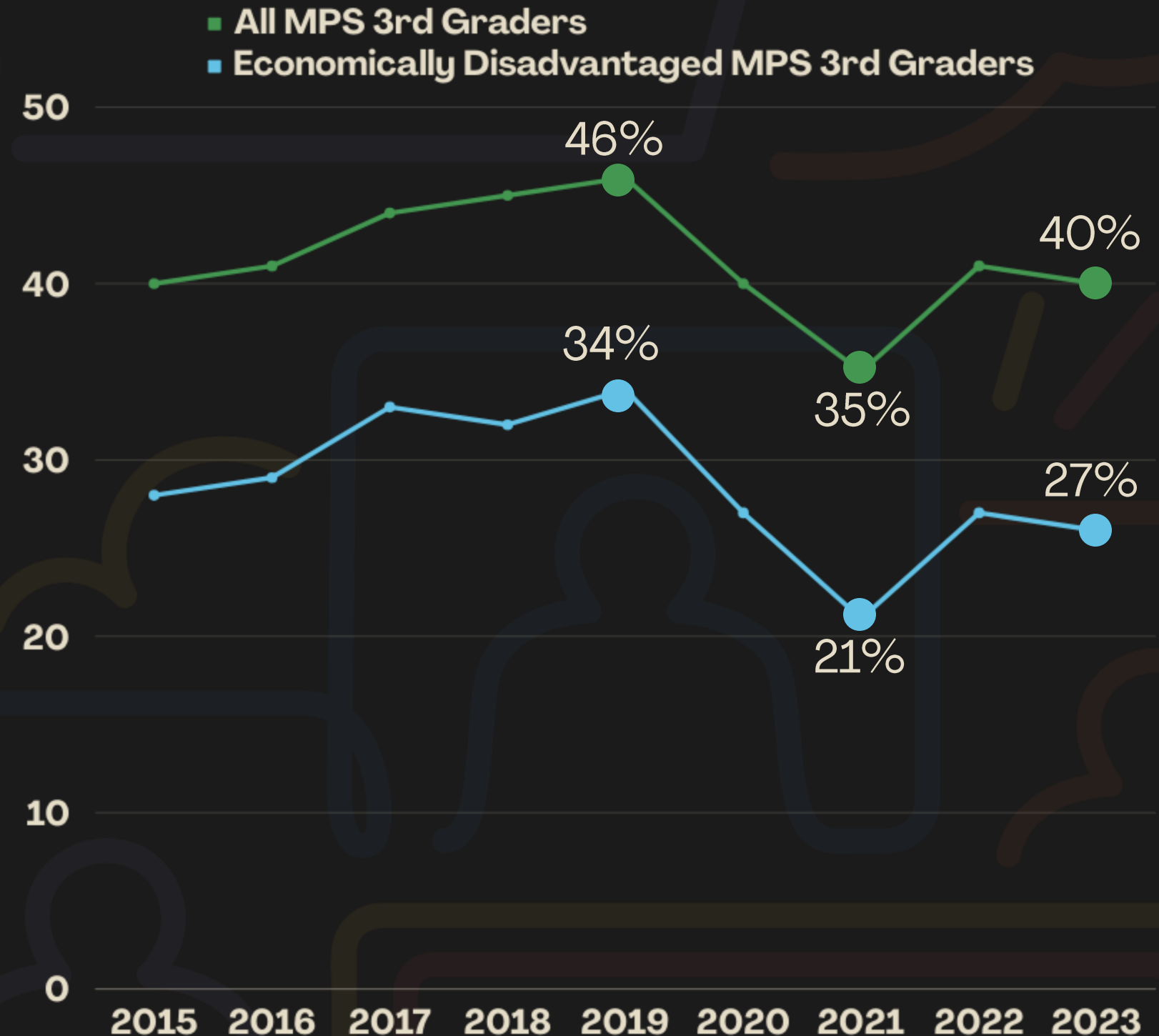


THE PROBLEM

3rd Grade Literacy

- In 2023, only 40% of MPS 3rd graders passed the reading section of the AzMerit assessment.
- The pass rate was significantly lower for MPS 3rd graders from low-income households.

Source: Read On Mesa MapLIT Data (2024)



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Readers Become Leaders

3rd grade literacy is a significant indicator of high school graduation and postsecondary attainment.

Source: Education Forward Arizona (2024)



WHAT STORY DOES THE DATA TELL?

Key Finding #1

The majority (83%) of MPS elementary schools did not have passing rates for 3rd grade reading on the AzMerit assessment.

Key Finding #2

The following MPS elementary schools demonstrated the greatest 3rd grade literacy needs:

- Guerrero Elementary School (9% Pass Rate)
- Kerr Elementary School (14% Pass Rate)
- Redbird Elementary School (16% Pass Rate)

Sources: Read On Mesa MapLit Data (2024)



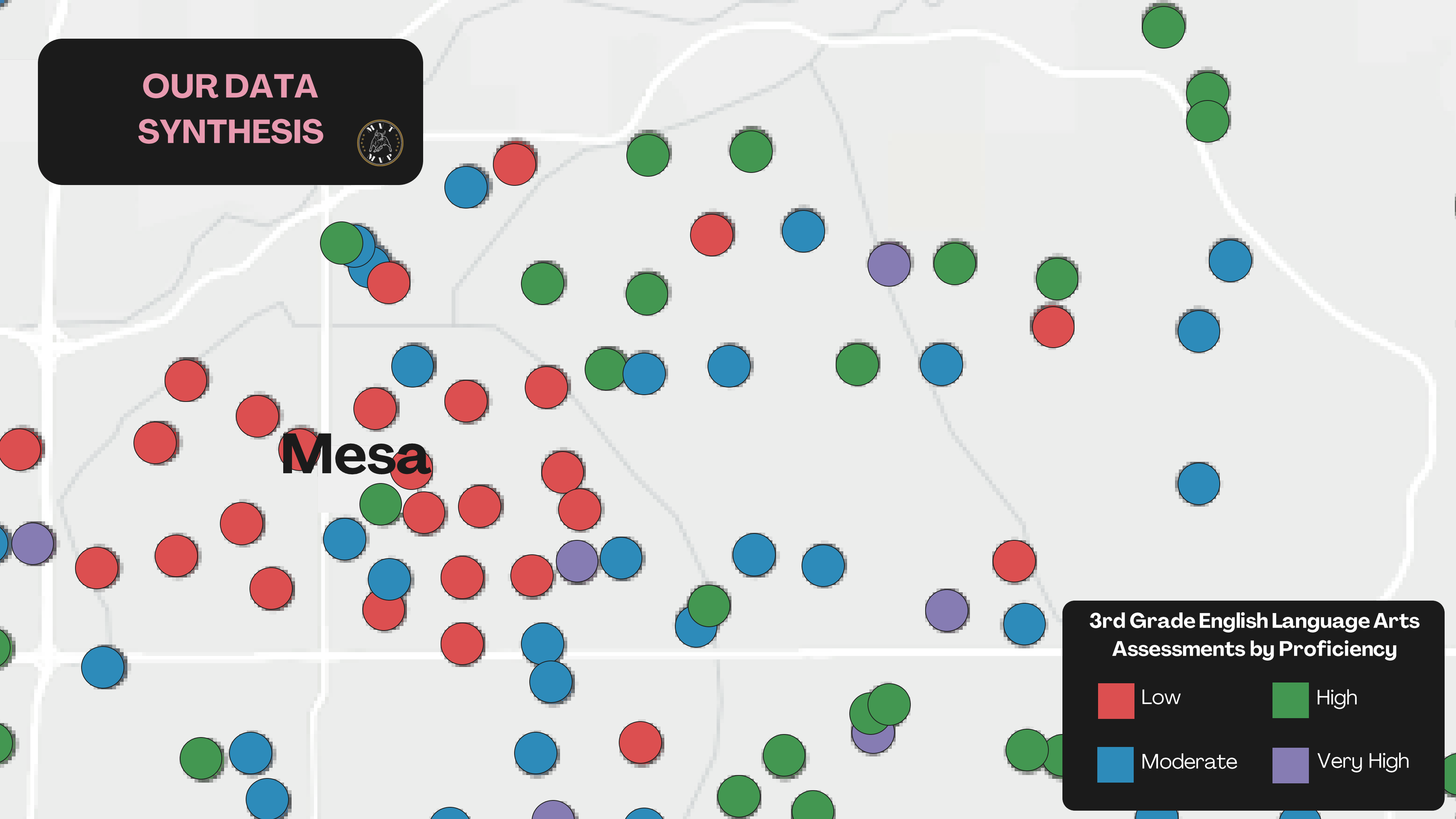
OUR DATA SYNTHESIS

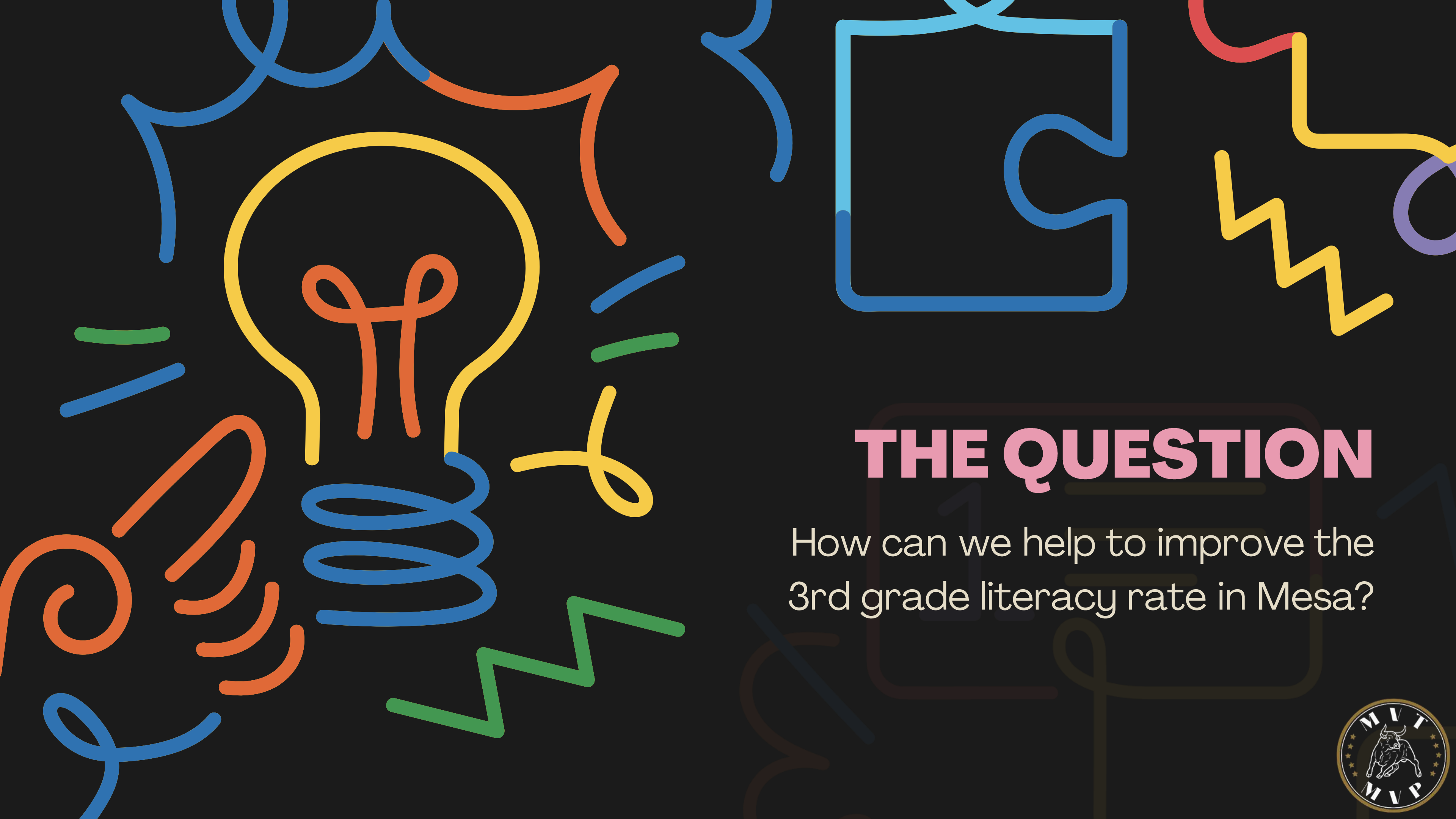


Mesa

3rd Grade English Language Arts Assessments by Proficiency

Low	High
Moderate	Very High





THE QUESTION

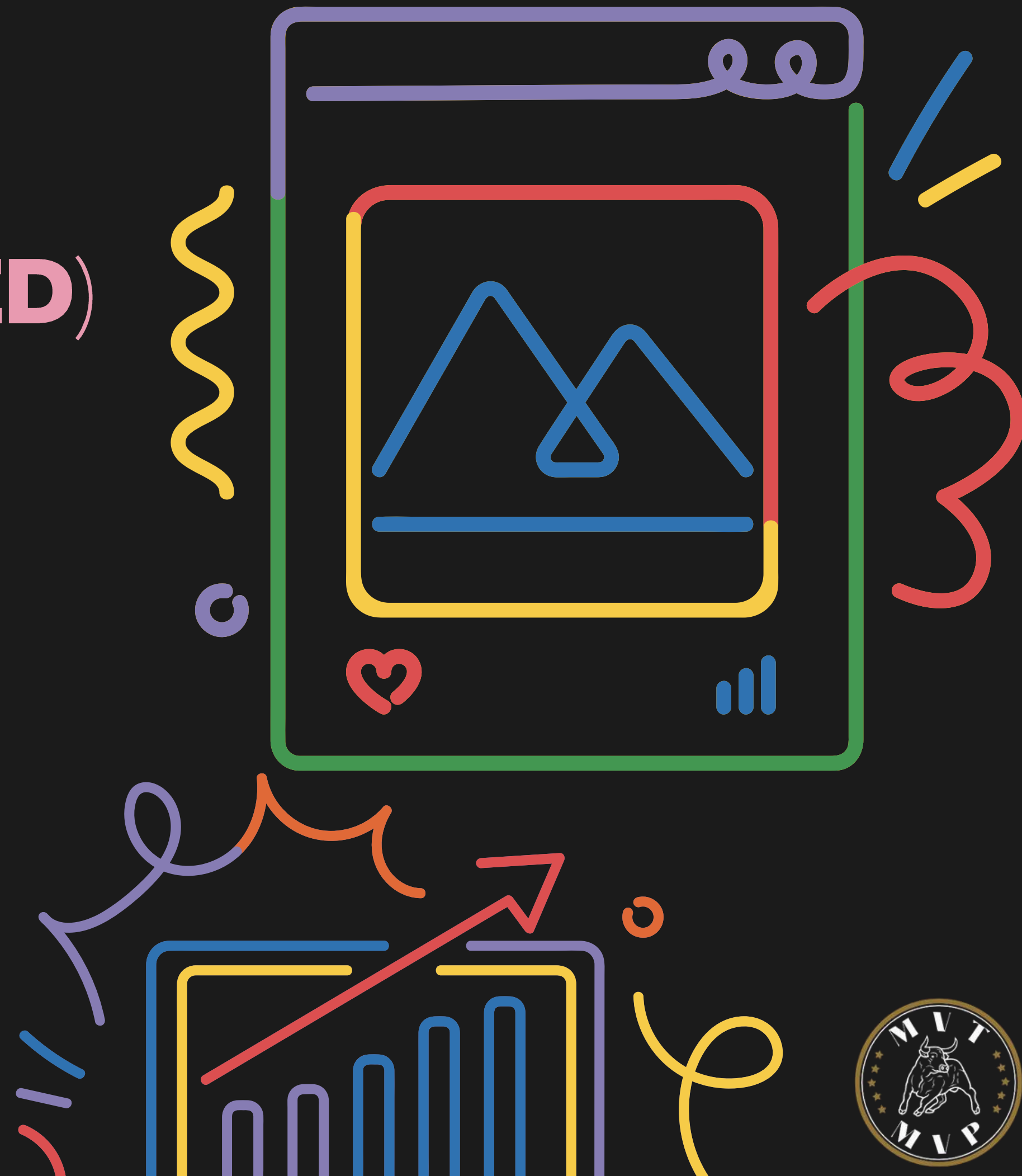
How can we help to improve the 3rd grade literacy rate in Mesa?



OUR (DATA-INFORMED) RECOMMENDATION

Project Book Buddy

MPS high school students will develop “Project Book Buddy,” a program in which they will read for fun with MPS K–3rd grade students.

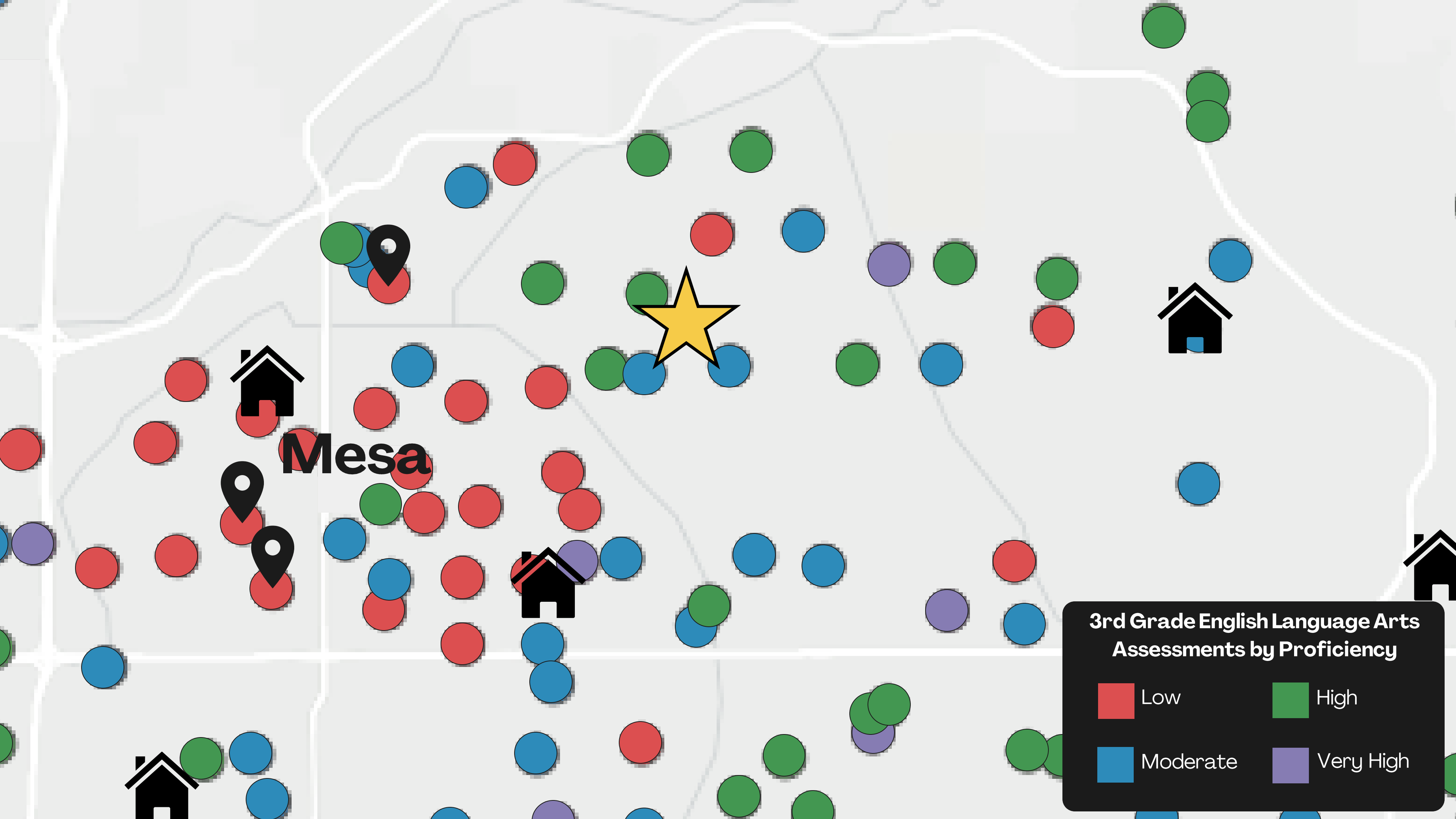


PROJECT BOOK BUDDY

Overview





- MPS high school students will visit elementary students during “free periods.”
 - Start with Guerrero, Kerr, and Redbird.
 - Use existing benchmark data to identify neediest students.
 - Incentivize high school students with service hours/resume building.





Mesa

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POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

01

Reading for fun helps elementary students (especially English Language Learners) increase cognitive function, vocabulary, and writing skills.

02

Reading for fun **with mentors** helps elementary students reduce chronic absenteeism, anxiety, depression, and other behavioral challenges.

03

Improving third grade literacy rates in MPS will help meet the demand for high-skill, high-wage jobs at companies like Google and Boeing in Mesa.

Sources: National Association of Secondary School Principals (2024), Attendance Works (2015), National Library of New Zealand (2023)



POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

04

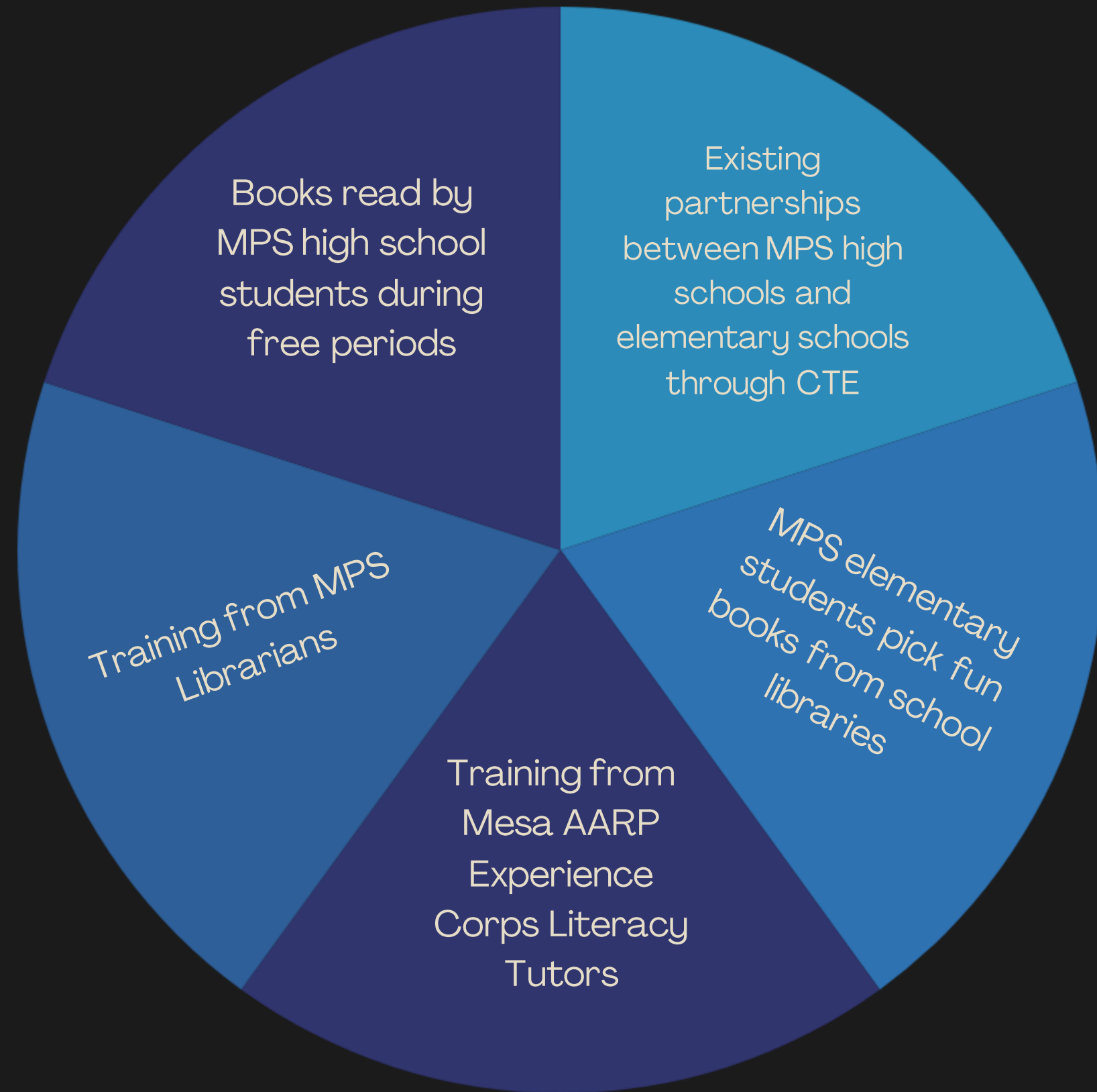
MPS elementary and high school students will develop the essential skills identified in the Portrait of a Graduate: collaboration, communication, community contribution, creative thinking and innovating, and critical thinking and problem solving.




FROM PROPOSAL TO REALITY

Utilizing existing systems and resources

This **cost-effective** intervention taps into existing systems and resources within MPS and the City of Mesa.



The background features a complex arrangement of colorful, hand-drawn lines and shapes in shades of blue, yellow, red, and purple. These elements include circles, squares, and irregular paths, some of which contain horizontal lines, suggesting a technical or data-related theme. The overall aesthetic is modern and dynamic.

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

The high school student leaders of Project Book Buddy will collaborate with elementary teachers/administrators to analyze student reading growth on quarterly MPS benchmark reading assessments.



APPENDIX

Sources cited on each slide



Scan for access to presentation.





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THANK YOU!

