



Reading Partners Interim Report January 2009

Program Overview

PENCIL Foundation's Reading Partners program has worked with Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) since 2000 to assist in their efforts to educate children by providing volunteer one-on-one reading assistance and read-aloud experiences for young students in a caring, supportive structure. The goals of the program are to improve the reading ability of low-performing students, to provide positive role models for children, to increase community involvement in student learning, and to support MNPS in its efforts to meet reading standards mandated under No Child Left Behind.

The program continues to have the full endorsement of MNPS and is fully integrated with district reading instruction directives. The students' education experience is enriched by the mentoring element of the relationships that the students develop with their Reading Partners over time. Over the past eight years, nearly 3,000 Reading Partners volunteers have provided services to over 17,300 students in Metro schools.

Highlights

Reading Partners has accomplished the following to date for the 2008-09 academic year:

- 301 students are receiving one-on-one reading assistance from volunteers, and 1,003 students are being served on a consistent basis through classroom readers, for a total of 1,304 students served.
- 293 volunteers are active in 28 elementary schools and 1 middle school.
- Volunteers represent over 40 businesses, area colleges and universities, and community groups.
- Five Nashville federal work-study students tutored students at five high-needs elementary schools during fall semester, providing an additional 600 hours of extra individualized and small group reading tutoring to students.
- Reading Partners works with school-based Family Resource Centers to provide tutoring services to students at Bordeaux, Cora Howe, Fall-Hamilton, McKissack, and Napier Elementary Schools.
- In collaboration with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Reading Partners provided four reading tutor training sessions for BB/BS volunteers.

Funders

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- Comcast Foundation
- Dollar General Corporation
- Bank of America
- Creative Artists Agency
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