



Reading Partners Interim Report January 2008

Program Overview

Since 2000, PENCIL Foundation Reading Partners has recruited, trained, and placed community volunteers who assist students (PreK-4) in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) in acquiring reading skills and increasing their enjoyment of literature. Reading Partners' goals 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 raise and maintain gains in reading scores. The program helps children acquire the most basic skill critical to continued academic achievement throughout their school career— the ability to read well.

Reading Partners is based upon national research on highly effective reading programs (large-scale study of the National Assessment of Education Progress, NAEP) and is fully integrated with the reading instruction of MNPS. The program has grown from serving 170 students with one-on-one reading assistance in 2000-2001 to serving 531 students in 2006-07, and is on track to serve as many or more students through one-on-one assistance this year. According to evaluations from principals, teachers, and reading specialists, it continues to be a valuable resource to students and staff in MNPS.

Highlights

Reading Partners has accomplished the following to date for the 2007-08 academic year:

- 388 students are receiving one-on-one reading assistance from volunteers, and 765 students are being served on a consistent basis through classroom readers, for a total of 1,153 students served.
- Volunteers are active in 34 elementary schools and 2 middle schools. Among these, 31 are Title 1 schools serving children from low-income families.
- Approximately 49% of current volunteers have been recruited through partnerships with area colleges and universities including Vanderbilt University's Pencil Projects and the Owen Graduate School, Tennessee State University, and the Meharry/Vanderbilt Medical Schools Alliance.
- Three Nashville State Community College federal work-study students tutored students at Bordeaux, Caldwell, and Sylvan Park Elementary Schools during fall semester, providing 652 hours of extra individualized and small group reading tutoring.
- Reading Partners continues to provide services to students as part of the Bordeaux, Fall-Hamilton, and Kirkpatrick, and Napier Family Resource Centers.

Funders

PENCIL Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of Reading Partners' funders who make it possible to continue serving MNPS students.

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