

KENTUCKY SCHOOL UPDATES

READING PROGRAMS

THE BASICS OF THE LAW

- The **Read to Achieve Program** was established during the 2005 legislative session. This Reading Diagnostic and Intervention program is a competitive grant that provides funds to schools to implement research-based reading diagnostic assessment to all primary students and intervention programs to those students identified as struggling readers. The early reading intervention program selected by a funded school must be based on reliable, replicable research and offer short-term intensive one-on-one or small group instruction in essential skills necessary for reading proficiency. Services to struggling readers in the primary years are provided by a highly trained, certified teacher specifically hired to provide intervention services. Currently, 312 schools have **Read to Achieve** grants.
- The **Kentucky Reading First Grant Program** was authorized under Title I, Part B, Subpart 1 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The purpose of the program is to ensure that each child is a successful, proficient reader by the end of the primary (K-3) by incorporating the five essential components of reading instruction into the reading program. Those components are phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, fluency, and comprehension.
- The **Collaborative Center for Literacy Development: Early Childhood through Adulthood** was created in 1998 to promote reading skills. It is a partnership between the eight state universities, the National Center for Family Literacy, the Kentucky Department of Education, the Department of Adult Education and Literacy, and other agencies that are involved in and support literacy, language development, and reading. Some of its duties include developing a clearinghouse for literacy information, collaborating with colleges and universities in literacy training, helping districts with students who have poor reading skills, and providing professional development. The Center, located at the University of Kentucky, is also responsible for research and evaluation of early reading models implemented by local schools and districts.
- The **Kentucky Reading Project**, regional training institutes for elementary school teachers with a special focus on reading instruction, created by the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development. Institutes are held across the state each summer for elementary teachers. Nine different groups were trained in the summer of 2006.
- The Kentucky Department of Education, in conjunction with the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, provides information on **successful research-based reading models** and strategies for implementing such programs. The department must also present a report to the legislature's Interim Joint Committee on Education by September 1 of each year.

- In 2000, the legislature passed a comprehensive **adult literacy** bill requiring the Council on Postsecondary Education, in partnership with the Department for Adult Education and Literacy, to create a mission and develop a 20-year strategy to raise the knowledge and skill level of and ensure lifelong learning opportunities for adults in Kentucky. Family literacy services are included in this plan.

RESULTS

- **Reading Scores:** Test results for elementary schools on the reading portion of the Kentucky Core Content Test (KCCT) have risen from 78.9 in 1999 to 87.1 in 2005. The Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) for students at the end of the primary program (formerly grade three) on reading show gains from an average of 50 in 1997 to 65 in 2005. Average fourth grade scores in reading on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) have risen from 213 in 1992 which was two points below the national average to 220 in 2005, three points above the national average. This may be a result of state and national emphasis on reading programs with supporting funds.
- The General Assembly provided a significant increase in funds for **Read to Achieve** including \$20.6 million in 2006-07 and \$23.6 million in 2007-08. (Funding in 2005-06 was \$11.1 million.) There are currently 313 funded Read to Achieve schools.
- Kentucky will receive \$89 million, over six years (2003 through 2009) to fund the **Kentucky Reading First** subgrants to 73 schools in 42 districts. These federal funds are being used for implementation of comprehensive reading programs in elementary schools. After two years of implementation in Kentucky, a larger number of primary school students were reading at Kentucky benchmarks.
- **The Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy** is an initiative of the National Center for Family Literacy focused on improving the literacy of Kentuckians across the lifespan through professional development, awareness, resource development and partnerships. The Institute works with programs in every county that provide adult education for parents, parenting education and interactive literacy activities for parents and children ages birth - 18. For a complete list of literacy programs in Kentucky, or to browse the 2,300-volume Family Literacy Resource Center, go to www.famlit.org/kifl.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- ★ **Read** to your children and grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighbor children. Get in the habit of taking them to your local library on a regular basis. **Talk** with students and parents about the importance of reading. **Give** books as gifts to children.
- ★ **Ask** for copies of *Put Reading First: Helping Your Child Learn to Read*, a guide for parents of preschool through grade 3 students, available from the National Institute for Literacy. Distribute them to parents in your school or schedule a school meeting and have a conversation about what parents can do. Go to publications at <http://www.nifl.gov/>

- ★ **Volunteer** at your local schools to read with students who need extra help. Contact the Kentucky PTA to learn about and set up a *Rock and Read* program to involved senior citizens in reading with children. See below for contact information.
- ★ **Request** information about *One-to-One: Practicing Reading with Students*, a volunteer training program designed to support reading in elementary schools, available from the Partnership for Successful Schools. See below for contact information.
- ★ **Visit** the Partnership for Successful Schools Web site and find copies of their ads on reading and writing prepared for the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. Share them with parents in your school. See below for Web site.
- ★ **Help set up a parent/child book club** at your school or in your neighborhood for students in grades three and above, to encourage reading and discussing books together.
- ★ **Ask** about reading scores at your middle and high schools. Ask how the school is helping students who are not reading on grade level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

- **Collaborative Center for Early Literacy Development**, University of Kentucky, (859) 257-6734; <http://www.kentuckyliteracy.org/>
- **Kentucky Adult Education**, Council on Postsecondary Education; (502) 573-5114; 800 928-7323; <http://adulted.state.ky.us> .
- **Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers**, (502) 226-6607.
- **Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education**, (502) 573-1555. **Kentucky Department of Education**, (502) 564-4770 or visit the Web site at <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Default.htm>
 - **Division of Curriculum Development**, (502) 564-2106, Read to Achieve and elementary, middle and high school reading specialists.
 - **Reading First**, (502) 564-7056 or visit the Web site: <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Literacy/Kentucky+Reading+First/default/htm>.
- **Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy**, (502) 584-1133 x184, www.famlit.org/kifl.
- **National Center for Family Literacy**, (502) 584-1133, <http://www.famlit.org/>
- **National Institute for Literacy**, ED Pubs, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398, (800) 228-8813, fax (301) 470-1244, e-mail: edpuborders@edpubs.org or visit the Web site at <http://www.nifl.gov/>.
- **Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence**, P.O. Box 1658, Lexington, KY 40588-1658; (859) 233-9849 or (800) 928-2111; e-mail: admin@prichardcommittee.org or visit the Web site at <http://www.prichardcommittee.org/>.