

GUARANTEERING SUCCESSFUL READERS



***All students will read at grade level**

***All students will advance a full grade level each year**

PARTNERS

“School Name” Public Schools
Eaton Intermediate School District
Students
Parents

The Need To Become a Proficient Reader

One of the saddest features of life in the United States, with its unmatched prosperity, is that 40 percent of those born into the bottom economic 5th stay there as adults (Kahlenberg, 2004). If we want to end this cycle of inequity and intergenerational poverty, education is our surest route. The gateway to a good education is literacy.

Poor readers will continue to be low academic achievers until they learn to read. Students who read significantly below grade level are like lumberjacks with dull saws—they work harder and achieve less. The cycle of poverty, crime, and personal pain will continue for those whom we condemn to live surrounded by information they cannot access.

Skilled readers do well in our society. This is true from the time they start their first job as students until they retire from their jobs in business and industry six decades later. Unskilled readers struggle in our society. They struggle every time they come in contact with print.

Reading is a cornerstone for a child's success in school and, indeed, throughout life! Without the ability to read well, opportunities for personal fulfillment and job success inevitably will be lost.

As parents, educators, and as a society we have a moral obligation in today's globally competitive economy, to instill in all our children the academic skills and personal attributes necessary for them to live happy, successful, and productive lives.

"If you want your children to be brilliant, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more brilliant, read them more fairy tales."

Albert Einstein

DRAFT

School District Responsibilities

1. District will provide a minimum of 120-140 minutes per day of language arts instruction, including:
 - daily reading aloud in grades K-5
 - independent reading daily (20 minutes, with “just right”, high interest, self selected material)
 - guided reading daily
2. District will integrate a 15-minute literacy component into science and social studies.
3. All K-5 classrooms will have leveled, high interest reading materials that will be available to students for Self-selected reading that will cover the range of reading levels in the classroom.
4. All K-5 students identified below grade level will get an additional 60-90 minutes per week in Tier 2 or Tier 3 supplemental reading instruction/reading time.
5. District will plan to provide students with instruction that focuses on generous amounts of close, purposeful reading, rereading, writing, and speaking (the essence of authentic literacy.)
6. District will plan and implement a “vacation” reading program that includes students borrowing books and other texts for independent reading practice.
7. District/classroom teachers will assess students a minimum of three times annually (fall, winter, spring) to monitor student reading progress.
8. District K-5 report cards will indicate each student’s independent reading level and will report this level to parents during parent/teacher conferences.

Parent Responsibilities

1. Will read to my child, with my child, and/or listen to my child read for a minimum of 20 minutes daily.
2. Recognize the need to make reading at home fun so that my child will not only become a proficient reader, but will also become an avid, eager reader.
3. Will limit television/media viewing for my child to not more than two hours daily or ten hours weekly.
4. Will get a library card for my child and visit the public library on a regular, ongoing basis.
5. Will attend the parent/teacher conferences to discuss and review my child’s accomplishments.
6. Will provide a bed lamp for my child and encourage him/her to read self-selected material each night as part of the bedtime ritual.
7. Will ensure that my child has a special place for keeping all his/her books, as well as those we’ve borrowed from the library.

Student Responsibilities

1. Child will actively engage in daily reading lessons.
2. Child will self-select high interest, appropriately leveled reading materials for daily sustained silent reading time in school.
3. Child will read to, read with, or listen to parents read aloud for a minimum of 20 minutes per day.
4. Child will limit television/media viewing to not more than two hours per day or ten hours weekly.
5. Child will read self selected material nightly as part of the bedtime ritual.
6. Child will read a minimum of 12 books annually outside of the school day/year off the recommended reading list provided by his/her teacher.

