

From: Kimberly Manns [mailto:kimberlym@ffee.org]
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Subject: May GLR Update: Our Pledge to Fight Summer Learning Loss

The Baltimore Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

3rd GRADE READING SUCCESS MATTERS

“Today
a reader.
Tomorrow
a leader.”

- Margaret Fuller



What's Happening

Dear Grade Level Reading Coalition Members:

Summer is quickly approaching and we're working hard in collaboration with our partners to reduce summer learning loss! We've taken the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading and National Summer Learning Association's Community Pledge for Summer Learning and will be working closely with our partners to expand summer learning opportunities and drive change on this important issue. See details below.

*Note that we'll be talking more about Baltimore Summer work at our next coalition meeting, which will be on **July 8th from 9:00am-11:00am at the Family League of Baltimore**. We hope to see you there! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

In partnership,



Kimberly Manns
Program Director

What We're Up To This Summer: Fighting the Summer Slide

It's been shown that low income students can lose up to 3 months of reading comprehension over the summer. We're taking action to fight against this summer learning loss by taking the National Campaign and National Summer Learning Association's Summer Learning Pledge. We've promised to work with our partners on the following areas to combat the summer slide:

- **Get healthy and get smart:** *The Baltimore Partnership to End Childhood Hunger coordinates with three major sponsors in Baltimore City-- Baltimore Housing, Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Family League of Baltimore-- as well as other City and State agencies and nonprofit partners to address policy barriers and identify program efficiencies to serve meals citywide. As part of this effort, this summer the Family League is operating three Mobile Meals routes which will serve two meals a day in outdoor sites near housing complexes, community gardens, and libraries. These sites are all participating in the Read 15 Initiative (more information on this is below) and some will be run by Community Champions. For more information [click here](#).*
- **Make every word count:** *In an effort to integrate daily reading into summer experiences, the Baltimore Campaign is proud to launch our Read 15 Initiative with our partners, City Schools, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Raising A Reader, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation's School Libraries, SummerREADS (The Abell Foundation's book distribution program), Reading Partners, Maryland Book Bank, Community Schools, Mobile Meals, and Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks. Read 15 encourages students and families*

packet, including a tool developed by Enoch Pratt Library, to over 30,000 City Schools students. We'll also be working with these partners to evaluate best practices for tracking the amount of time children spend reading over the summer. More partners are always welcome! If your organization would like to participate in Read 15 please email kimberlym@ffee.org.

- **Start young:** *The Read-to-Me program run by the Enoch Pratt Free Library is a summer reading program for birth to five year olds. The Enoch Pratt Library is partnering with Baltimore Infants and Toddlers to give their families access to both the Read-to-Me program and the K-5 summer reading program for older children. This year there will be a pre and post test with families to see if their reading habits change over the summer. The test will also determine the different ways parents read (are they most likely to read a book, read on their phone or read on their computers, etc.). For more information on the Enoch Pratt's summer programs [click here](#).*
- **Follow the numbers:** *At 12 schools across the City, Read to Succeed will provide comprehensive support to 2,500 Baltimore City rising 1st through 4th graders struggling with reading. The school district will track the progress of their students over the summer months.*
- **Determine the demand:** *The Family League of Baltimore has drafted a landscape analysis which will help determine and define what 'quality programming' and 'summer learning' look like in the context of Baltimore City's summer programs. This will allow Baltimore City to determine the local demand for and supply of high quality summer learning opportunities to better understand gaps in service for children who need it most. They have also convened a Summer Steering Committee and Summer Provider Work Group who will examine how to strengthen summer learning in Baltimore.*
- **Engage Families:** *36 AmeriCorps volunteers will serve as Summer Associates at the Family League of Baltimore. They will engage with families to generate demand for quality summer learning opportunities for children and youth.*

Read 15 Update: City Schools' Summer PSA

We're thrilled to share this public service announcement created by City Schools. It challenges younger students to read for at least 15 minutes a day! Check it out by clicking on the picture below.



Summer Learning Day is June 20th!



Summer Learning Day is quickly approaching. We hope you'll all be celebrating, we know we'll be! We'll be sure to keep you posted on our plans!

For more information on Summer Learning Day, [click here](http://www.summerlearning.org).

Save the Date: Next Coalition Meeting is On July 8th!

Join us on July 8th from 9:00am- 11:00am at the Family League of Baltimore for our next Coalition Meeting. We'll share what we've been up to over the past few months and are excited to hear what you've all been up to! Breakfast will be provided.

Spread the Word: Reading Partners is Hiring!



Reading Partners is proud to be a service organization, hosting hundreds of committed AmeriCorps members each year. AmeriCorps members dedicate an 11-month term of service as site coordinators, regional site coordinators, volunteer coordinators, and development coordinators. They are currently looking for great talent to fill their AmeriCorps positions for the 2014-15 school year. [Click here to see open positions](#) and spread the word!

To learn more, email: kimberlym@fee.org or call: 410-864-1409

Fund for Educational Excellence
800 North Charles Street • Suite 400 • Baltimore, MD 21201