Read for Success: Improve Reading Proficiency And Combat the Summer Learning Slide
READ FOR SUCCESS

A ground-breaking program intervention designed to help students excel at reading.
Welcome to Read for Success!

Moderator
Julie Rodriguez, Vice President of Literacy Services, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) jrodriguez@rif.org

Panelists
Ron Fairchild, President & CEO, Smarter Learning Group ron@smarterlearninggroup.com

Dr. Timothy Sims, Director of Federal Programs, Hickory Public Schools, Hickory NC simsti@hickoryschools.net

Dr. Jenny White, Principal, Southwest Elementary, Hickory, NC whiteje@hickoryschools.net
What is Read for Success?

- Read for Success is a ground-breaking program intervention designed to help K-3 students excel at reading.

- Tested over a two-year period as part of an Innovative Approaches to Learning (IAL) grant from the U.S. Department of Education, RIF’s evidence-based program reversed the trend of the summer learning slide – a contributing factor to the achievement gap.
Overcoming America’s Literacy Crisis

• There are 93 million adults in the U.S. who read at or below the basic level needed to contribute successfully to society.

• For many of these adults, they’ve had difficulty reading since they were kids.

• Many of today’s students face the same issue and the never-ending-cycle of illiteracy:
  - 34% of children entering kindergarten lack basic language skills needed to read
  - 64% of fourth-graders read at or below the basic level
  - A lack of academic success contributes to the more than 8,000 high school students who drop out every day
  - Minorities and children from economically-disadvantaged communities are more at-risk of falling behind
Combating the Summer Learning Slide

- All children are at-risk of losing some of the learning from the previous school year.
- More than 80% of children from economically-disadvantaged communities lose reading skills over summer because they lack access to books and enrichment opportunities.
- Students who lose reading ability over the summer rarely catch up.
- The summer learning slide can add up to 3 years of reading loss by the end of 5th grade.

SUMMER READING LOSS
More than 80% of children from economically disadvantaged communities can lose one to three months reading skills over the summer.

Evidence-Based Outcomes

Students saw incredible gains!

• 33,000 students from 173 schools in 16 states participated in the research.

• Over the two-year IAL study, Read for Success reversed the trend of summer reading loss for more than half the participating students:
  – 57% of students showed gains in reading proficiency
  – Nearly half of all third-graders improved their reading proficiency
  – Students below the 10th percentile showed the greatest gains
  – Students at or below the 90th percentile also showed gains
  – Some schools reported corollary gains in math and science
Components of the Program

There are four key components to the Read for Success program intervention to motivate and inspire students.

A classroom collection of 40 fiction and nonfiction books covering a variety of genres, topics and social issues for the classroom.

Eight kid-approved books and a Read with RIF string tote bag per student to own and take home for the summer.

Online access to standards-aligned enrichment and scaffolding activities for each book in the collection.

Online professional development.
Why Books Matter

- Books play an essential role in a child’s development and learning and are the building blocks for a better future.

- Books also foster imagination, expand our understanding of the world and fuel a lifelong love of learning.

- Read for Success includes diverse classroom book collections and summer books for students to motivate students to read.
• A classroom collection of 35 diverse fiction and nonfiction books covering a variety of genres, topics and social issues is included in the program intervention.

• As a bonus, RIF will also provide a classroom book collection for the library!
Books for Summer

• The program intervention also includes eight kid-approved books and a *Read with RIF* string tote per student to choose and take home for the summer.

• Read for Success works best when classroom collections and enrichment activities are introduced in winter and summer books are distributed just prior to the end of the school year.
Teachers will have online access to standards-aligned enrichment and scaffolding activities for each of the 35 books in the classroom collection.
Professional Development for Teachers

• Online professional development modules to help teachers effectively use the program and motivate students to read.
  – Read for Success: an introduction
  – Effective use of classroom books and enrichment activities
  – Motivation and summer book distributions
  – Extended resources and ongoing professional development

• For an added cost, teachers can order an in-person full-day workshop for 30 people.
Anticipated Outcomes

• For 50 years, Reading Is Fundamental has been a trusted resource to motivate children to read, learn and grow.

• When you adopt Read for Success into your classroom instruction, students have the potential to stem summer loss and make gains in reading proficiency!
Program Cost

• Read for Success costs $100 per student, per program, and is flexible to work with schools based on classroom size and need.

• Schools use public or private funds including grants and Title I allocations to pay for Read for Success.
In Closing

Read for Success works and is based on the premise of motivating students to read by providing access to and ownership of books of their choosing, professional development for teachers and effective STEAM-themed (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) classroom enrichment activities that inspire learning.
Thank you for joining us for today’s Read for Success webinar!

To learn more about Read for Success, visit RIF.org/readforsuccess or email us at readforsuccess@rif.org.