

It's Time to Read for the Record!



In the field of education, we're constantly working to determine how best to help students learn; to understand what measures, programs and practices will have the greatest impact on a student's ability to learn. Two things we know to be significantly impactful to academic success are early learning opportunities and reading skills.

Reaching children in their early years with appropriate learning opportunities plays into the child's natural curiosity and inquisitiveness to create a solid foundation for the learning process. Exposing children to books and giving them opportunities to read with adults and other children not only helps develop a child's reading skills, it also creates a love for reading that will serve the child in all future learning endeavors.

This month, for the sixth consecutive year, Jumpstart, a national early education organization, will host the "Read for the Record" event. Read for the Record creates an opportunity for children across the United States to read with adults and other children. The event attempts to set a world record for the most people reading the same book on the same day, and in the process promotes the importance of early education and a love for reading.

This year, Read for the Record will take place on Thursday, Oct. 6. I encourage everyone to get involved, either by participating in a reading event or reading on your own. This year's Read for the Record book is *Llama Llama Red Pajama*. I know many schools will plan to read the book as part of their classroom activities, or as a special event. Contact your school to see if there is a way you can participate. If you can't participate as part of an organized event, you can still contribute by reading the book on your own. You can read *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, and many other books, for free online at www.wegivebooks.org, where your participation in Read for the Record will be automatically recorded. The We Give Books digital library is available free all

year long, and whenever you read from their digital collection, the Pearson Foundation will provide a new paperback or hard-cover book to a child who does not have a book of his or her own.

I've had the pleasure of participating in Read for the Record for several years now, and it's a fantastic opportunity to bring awareness to the importance of early learning and strong reading skills. In addition, it helps provide much needed resources to classrooms around the country. Since the inception of the program, the Pearson Foundation has provided more than one million books to children who need them.

Last year, more than 2 million people took part in Read for the Record. I hope we can beat that record this year, and I hope you'll be part of the effort.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane".

Dr. Diane DeBacker
Kansas Commissioner of Education