

Would you like to be part of a pilot program aimed at stopping the summer slide?

Read to Me, a program of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), is looking for three research pilot sites in 2014 to determine if increasing access to books for young students in high poverty schools prevents the “summer slide” that many children experience when they go without learning experiences and books during the summer.

The Read to Me program will offer schools \$1,500 to help keep school libraries open in the summer. The program will also provide at least six books per student for those in grades K-2 using a book fair model* (up to \$9,000 of books for your students).

This pilot program has three primary goals:

- 1) Increase the amount of reading done over the summer.
- 2) Increase the number of children reading on grade level, particularly in K – 2nd grades.
- 3) Build the capacity of school and public libraries to better serve children and families in their service area.

Research Pilot Program Eligibility

Eligible schools must serve at least 60% low-income students (see the last column on the 2012-13 chart at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/statisticsFinance/). The goal is to have at least one site in each region of the state, so geographical distribution will be a factor when ranking applications.

*At each site, ICfL Read to Me personnel will work with a local team to develop and implement a spring “Bookfair” modeled after that used by Allington and McGill-Franzen. ICfL will provide enough books that each kindergarten, first, and second grade student will be able to select at least six books to take home during the last month of school. Students and their family members will be encouraged to read and return the books. All books will have “Read and Return” stickers in them. Students in the program will be able to keep at least two books. All remaining books will become the property of the participating school to use to support the program.

Please see the requirements for school participation on page four.

Application Deadlines

Applications must be postmarked on or before January 30, 2014. Pilot sites will be selected by February 14, 2014. We hope to work directly with the pilot sites and their public library partners March – September, 2014.

Instructions

Applications, with original signatures, must be postmarked by January 30, 2014 and mailed to Stephanie Bailey-White at the Idaho Commission for Libraries, 325 W. State St. Boise ID 83702.

Stop the Summer Slide Research Pilot Program Application

A. Applicant Information

Name of Applying Elementary School: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person/Applicant: _____

Title (usually a school librarian or principal) _____

School Phone: _____

Home phone (if we need to get in touch with you over the summer): _____

School email: _____

Home email: _____

Public Library Partner (name of person and library): _____

B. Needs Statement

1. Please describe your school and indicate what grades your school serves, total number of students, and anything else you'd like to note about your school's or school library's needs:

Grades Served: _____ # of Students Enrolled: _____

Other info about your school:

2. Percentage of students in your school who are low-income during the 2012-13 school year according to www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/statisticsFinance/.

_____ %

C. School Background Information

3. Has your school library ever been open over the summer months? If so, please provide information about your experience and how the program worked. Please include information on how personnel was funded and your budget for implementing the program.

4. What percentage of the students at your school participated in the public library's summer reading program in 2012-13? (If you don't know this information and can't get it from your public library partner, please indicate that.)

D. Grant Requirements

If your school is awarded grant funds and selected to participate in the research pilot program, the following requirements will need to be met by your school. Please check and initial each requirement.

- _____ The school library will be open at least two days per week (minimum of four hours per day) for a minimum of nine weeks during the summer months to allow students to exchange books provided through ICfL and check out books from the school library collection. The school will use the \$1,500 from ICfL for personnel to meet these requirements.
- _____ School library representative will participate in an introductory one-hour webinar in March and attend a face-to-face meeting with a member of the Read to Me team and community members in early April at your school.
- _____ The school principal and other personnel will work with BSU Literacy Professor Dr. Roger Stewart to analyze IRI scores and assist in obtaining parent release forms.
- _____ The school and public library will co-host a summer reading family education event in the spring around the time of the book distribution.
- _____ The school will help host up to three focus group sessions (for students, parents and teachers). These will be facilitated by Dr. Roger Stewart or ICfL staff.
- _____ Participate with your public library partner in the Bright Futures School Partnerships Program (and receive 15 hardcover books for your school library in return for meeting these requirements). See the application and more information at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/bright-futures-summer-reading-opportunities-school-partnerships>
- _____ The school will sign a Memorandum of Understanding if selected to participate in the research program and submit a narrative and financial report in September.
- _____ The school will track school library circulation statistics by grade level and provide feedback on the pilot program.
- _____ The school will agree to participate over a minimum of two years, contingent on funding via ICfL.

Original Signatures of School Authorizing Officials:

In signing this application, we agree to follow the grant requirements listed above.

Signature of principal _____

Please print name of principal _____

Signature of superintendent _____

Please print name of superintendent _____

Signature of school library representative** _____

Please print name of school library rep _____

Signature of public library representative:

Please print name _____

*The "bookfair model" is outlined in *Summer Reading: Closing the Rich/Poor Reading Achievement Gap*, edited by Richard L. Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen

** Qualifying schools must have a paid staff member in this position.