

## Read2Succeed and Middle School Morning Book Clubs

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) continues to experience a significant drop in the percentage of students who read on grade level or above between third and 10th grades. In 2012, 58 percent of third graders scored at grade level proficiency compared to 49 percent of 10th graders. In support of OCPS efforts to sustain and improve students' reading skills, the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools supports two proven literacy programs. Read2Succeed currently targets second graders and will expand in 2012-13 to first graders in four elementary schools. Middle School Morning Book Clubs (MSMBC) will serve sixth through eighth graders in 13 middle schools.

Read2Succeed is a mentoring program that matches trained volunteers with second graders who are struggling readers. So far during the 2012-2013 school year, volunteers and reading assistants contributed more than 6,180 hours working with 505 second graders once a week for 30 to 45 minutes using the research-based program "Six-Minute Solution." The program uses high readability passages and students score and time each other to measure their reading fluency success. Mentors follow up with hands-on, engaging activities to reinforce their learning. Student pairs practice the remainder of the week. During 2011-12, Read2Succeed volunteers were in 46 elementary schools and served 175 students.

The goal of the MSMBC is to strengthen the literacy skills of middle school students and encourage reading for enjoyment. Students meet with a facilitator once a week before school begins to discuss the book the group is reading. Each participating school can offer two MSMBC book clubs with up to 15 students in each.

**Budget:** Read2Succeed = \$106,986 per year

Middle School Morning Book Clubs = \$60,552 per year

**Return on Investment:** Participating first- and second-grade students will be better prepared to read on grade level in third grade when high-stakes FCAT testing begins. Middle school students participating in the book clubs will increase their reading skills to grade level proficiency.

**One in six children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time, and 22 percent of children who have lived in poverty do not graduate at all.**





## Targeted Population

- Low- to mid-level second-grade readers who are struggling with reading fluency
- Level 3 middle school students (grades 6-8)

## Needs Statement

### Read2Succeed (Grades 1-2)

One in six children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time, and 22 percent of children who have lived in poverty do not graduate at all. Twenty-nine of the 60 schools currently registered for Read2Succeed are schools serving large populations of low-income students.

Orange County continues to experience a significant drop in Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) reading scores as students move from third grade to 10th grade (58 percent to 49 percent respectively in 2012). Read2Succeed targets second grade because this is a critical year when students transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”

### Middle School Morning Book Clubs (Grades 6-8)

Research shows that as students enter middle-school years, their interest, competence and motivation in reading declines. The goal of their Middle School Morning Book Clubs (MSMBC) program is to strengthen students’ literacy skills while simultaneously encouraging reading for enjoyment. Middle school years are perhaps the toughest for students as they go through major social, emotional and physical changes. Students also face tremendous pressure to perform academically. The MSMBC program is designed to increase student reading achievement in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment during these critical years.

Middle schools begin the day around 9:30 a.m. and, at many schools, students start arriving as early as 7:30 a.m. Engaging select students in enjoyable reading activities during this unstructured time will help strengthen their literacy skills, foster positive relationships with adults and other participants, and build the social nature of reading. Students discuss responses, share insights and learn from the interpretations of other readers.

## Proposal

### Read2Succeed

Read2Succeed is a mentoring program that matches trained volunteers with second graders who are struggling readers. So far during the 2012-2013 school year, volunteers and reading assistants contributed more than 6,180 hours working with 505 second graders once a week for 30-45 minutes using the research-based program “Six-Minute Solution.” These mentors are matched with low- to mid-level readers, and their objective is to build reading fluency that will ultimately foster strong comprehension skills.

The program utilizes high readability passages, and students “score” and time each other to measure their reading fluency success. After completing their fluency passages, mentors have approximately 10-20 minutes to read books and practice literacy skills using manipulatives such as flash cards with high-frequency words, games and puzzles. Students are asked to work with their partners on the fluency exercises the other four days of the week.

Overall, students participating in the program during the 2011-2012 school year showed 110 percent improvement in their Oral Reading Fluency scores as measured by the Florida Assessment in Reading (FAIR). Ninety-six percent of participating teachers agreed that the program had a positive impact on their students’ ability to read better when surveyed.

In 2012-2013, plans are to expand the Read2Succeed program to also serve first graders. A pilot program will launch in January 2013 in first-grade classes at four elementary schools. The first-grade curriculum will focus on building and expanding vocabulary.

#### **Middle School Morning Book Clubs**

The basic concept for this program is the same at all the middle schools: students meet with a facilitator for an hour once a week from September through May to discuss the book the group is reading. Sessions are held before the school day begins. Each of the schools has the flexibility to design other aspects of the program to meet the specific needs of their student populations. For example, some schools will have clubs for only girls or only boys, while others may target certain demographics based on student achievement needs (i.e. Hispanic or African American students). Some clubs may incorporate a family involvement component into the program.

The target audience for these clubs is sixth- through eighth-grade students who would benefit from group interaction, exposure to a variety of books and, with practice, be able to make reading gains. In most cases, this will include students who scored high level 2 (below grade level) or low level 3 (just above grade level) on the reading portion of the 2012 FCAT. Participants are selected based on FCAT test scores and teacher recommendations.

Each school can have a maximum of 15 students per group with no more than two clubs operating at the same time. Students meet with the facilitator at least once a week before the school day begins to read and discuss selected books. Books will be selected based on reading level, grade level appropriateness and high interest content.



## Target Population to be Served – Data Based on 2011-2012 School Year Enrollment

Middle schools in the north and west learning communities are the target for the initial roll-out of this program.

Anticipated # of clients Served in Program (2012-2013 School Year): 300							
	Apopka	Carver	Howard	Lee	Legacy	Lockhart	Meadow Brook
Total student population	1,037	728	654	851	872	759	999
Low Income	70%	90%	76%	76%	68%	79%	91%
Male (estimate)	50%	50%	50%	50%	100%	520%	50%
Female (estimate)	50%	50%	50%	50%	0%	50%	50%
African American	33%	91%	43%	59%	16%	47%	82%
Asian	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%
Caucasian	62%	7%	50%	35%	74%	45%	14%
Other	3%	2%	4%	3%	6%	5%	3%
Latino**	33%	9%	24%	10%	53%	21%	12%

## Target Population to be Served – Data Based on 2011-2012 School Year Enrollment (Cont.)

	Memorial	Ocoee	Piedmont Lakes	Robinswood	Westridge	Wolf Lake
Total student population	657	1548	1168	1228	1089	1157
Low Income	90%	64%	71%	87%	94%	59%
Male (estimate)	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Female (estimate)	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
African American	81%	26%	30%	85%	56%	28%
Asian	1%	4%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Caucasian	15%	64%	63%	10%	39%	65%
Other	3%	6%	5%	2%	3%	4%
Latino**	15%	26%	33%	9%	39%	21%

\*\*Federal ethnicity—recorded for all students as Hispanic or non-Hispanic

\*\*\*Highlighted schools participated in the MSMBC 2012 pilot program and are grandfathered in.

### Current Partners

University of Central Florida, College of Education; Valencia College; Orlando Magic Youth Fund; Orlando Sentinel Family Fund; City of Orlando; Wells Fargo; Consortium of Florida Education Foundations; participating elementary and middle schools.

### Return on Investment

#### Read2Succeed

Increasing the number of third graders reading at grade level: as Read2Succeed students move to third grade, an increasing percentage will read at grade level as measured by the FCAT.



## Evaluation Plan

### Middle School Morning Book Clubs

Increasing the number of middle school students reading at grade level: as MSMBC students move to high school, an increasing number of students will read at grade level as measured by the FCAT.

### Read2Succeed

Read2Succeed targets low- to mid-level readers. All students are identified as lower performers by the Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) scores. Teachers may use this assessment or other assessment tools to identify students before registering them for the program.

Program outcomes will be measured by FAIR ORF scores. The FAIR is administered to students three times a year. Read2Succeed will collect FAIR data for all participating students at the end of the school year, and then measure their progress between the first and final assessments.

The objective of Read2Succeed is to build reading fluency, which leads to strong comprehension skills. It is anticipated that 50 percent of the students receiving eight months of mentoring will meet grade level standards as measured by FAIR ORF scores. Student ORF scores will be calculated at the final assessment period to determine if students are reading at grade level and to measure ORF growth between the first and final assessments. For example, a student reading a targeted passage with a fluency of 60 words per minute with an accuracy of 95 percent and who responds correctly to four out of five comprehension questions would meet grade level standards. A student who demonstrates an ORF growth of 40 words correct per minute between the first and final assessments indicates significant impact was made even if the child is still not at grade level. These ORF growth goals are based on the research of Fuchs, Fuchs, Hamlett, Walz, & Germann in determining Oral Reading Fluency Adequate Response Rates.

In addition to this quantitative data, teachers participating in Read2Succeed will be invited to focus groups to gather their input on what went well with the program and what needs improvement. Furthermore, teachers, mentors and students will complete electronic surveys to gather qualitative data.

The number of volunteer hours is expected to increase from 3,500 in 2011-2012 to 4,250 in 2012-2013. This will be accomplished through an ambitious volunteer recruitment campaign that will target senior programs, civic organizations, businesses and faith-based institutions along with paid tutors if funded.

### Middle School Morning Book Clubs

Outcomes for students will be measured through pre- and post-assessments using the Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR) and/or the Florida Assessment of Instruction in Reading (FAIR) to track learning gains. STAR is a computer-adaptive assessment of general reading achievements





	<p>that teachers can administer frequently to monitor students' growth. FAIR is a state-wide assessment for students in grades K-12 that measures reading fluency and comprehension at three assessment periods during the school year.</p> <p>The program's effectiveness also will be measured through increased FCAT results and increased library circulation for students participating in the book clubs for multiple years.</p> <p>In addition to this quantitative data, teachers and students participating in MSMBC will complete surveys to gather their input on what went well with the program and what needs improvement. Additional questions will assess the frequency students are reading for pleasure and their selection habits.</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p>There is no direct funding source for this program. It will be sustained through private philanthropy.</p>
<b>Key Personnel</b>	<p><u>Jeanne Smith, Read2Succeed Manager</u> Read2Succeed Program Manager Jeanne Daly Smith joined the foundation in July 2011. She is a sales and marketing veteran with experience in the non-profit, corporate and small business arenas. Her past non-profit experience includes serving as the executive director of United Way of Seminole County and vice president of marketing and resource development for United Arts of Central Florida. She also worked as the circulation marketing manager for the <i>Orlando Sentinel</i>, where she was a Read2Succeed volunteer. After leaving the Orlando Sentinel, she operated a marketing consulting firm.</p> <p><u>Jennifer Michaels-Gesundheit, Read2Succeed Program Consultant</u> Jennifer has been an OCPS elementary teacher for students with exceptionalities for 13 years and currently serves as a district instructional support teacher for the OCPS Exceptional Student Education Department. She was the 2011 Orange County Teacher of the Year and served on the foundation's board of directors for two years.</p>
<b>Budget</b>	<p><b>Read2Succeed</b> During the 2011-2012 school year, Read2Succeed had volunteers in 46 elementary schools and served 175 students. A total of 226 students registered by their teachers for the program went unserved because there were not enough volunteers.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Total hourly rate for reading assistants is \$9.75, which includes FICA and Medicare.</li><li>2. An administrative fee will be charged to cover indirect costs associated with the financial management and reporting requirements of this program.</li></ol>



Category	Description	Total Cost
Personnel	Literacy Manager's salary & benefits	\$33,000
	Director of Operations (5%)	\$3,574
	Executive Director (10%)	\$9,937
	Grant Writer (10%)	\$3,100
	10 Paid Reading Assistants (15 Hours/week * 30 weeks * \$9.75)	\$43,875
	Contracted Professional Consultants	\$10,000
Program Materials	Materials/Supplies (student notebooks, copies of passages, timers, markers, teachers' notebooks, volunteers' handbooks) manipulatives and evaluation tools	\$1,500
Volunteers	Ongoing training (webinars, online videos, live presentations)	\$1,000
	Celebration event	\$1,000
Total		\$106,986

### Middle School Morning Book Clubs

Funds will be used to purchase books and provide financial supplements to the book club facilitators. Each club will complete approximately one book per month. When the last book is finished, each student will be able to choose his or her favorite book to keep. The other books will be given to the school or a classroom library. Funds for refreshments will be allocated for "celebration" activities upon completion of a book or other club milestones. Knowing that technology motivates youth, e-readers also will be purchased for some groups.

### Other assumptions:

1. The budget is based on 13 middle schools participating in the MSMBC program during the 2012-2013 school year.
2. Total cost per school using e-readers (15) and running one club is \$4,658.
3. Each school will have one facilitator who will receive a \$750 supplement for the year to organize and run the program. Although the facilitator will be a school employee, this supplement will cover the time invested outside the parameters of the normal work day.
4. The MSMBC program will run from September 2012 through May 2013. It is anticipated that the clubs will complete one book per month. Each school has a maximum of 15 participating students per group and a maximum of two groups per school. Budget is based on one club per school, nine books per student at an estimated cost of \$10/book (13 schools \* 15 participants/school \* \$10/book \* 9 books = \$17,550).
5. After the completion of a book, the clubs will hold a celebration breakfast to recognize their accomplishments. Each school is budgeted at \$350 for refreshments.
6. An administrative fee will be charged to cover indirect costs associated with the financial management and reporting requirements of this program.



Category	Description	Total Cost
Personnel	Facilitator Supplement (13 Facilitators @ \$750 each)	\$9,750
	Literacy Manager's salary & benefits (%15)	\$5,497
Program Materials	Books (1,755 books @ \$10 each)	\$17,550
	E-Readers (13 schools* 15 Nooks @ \$9 each)	\$19,305
	Nook covers (195 covers @ \$20 each)	\$3,900
	Food (13 schools @ \$350 each)	\$4,550
Total		\$60,552

**TOTAL:**

Read2Succeed = \$106,986

Middle School Morning Book Clubs = \$60,552 or 13 schools  
or \$4,658 per school

**OCPS Strategic  
Objective(s)**

Intense Focus on Student Achievement  
Meeting State Standards (FCAT)

**Contact(s)**

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