

Early literacy is foundationally important for all students in becoming college and career ready. Strong evidence shows that reading proficiently by the end of third grade is a key predictor of high school graduation and career success. This milestone is critical as it marks the transition from children learning to read to reading to learn; children who miss this mark can quickly fall behind in school.

Developing reading proficiency by third grade is a community-wide goal, but we continue to experience achievement gaps based on income, race, language, and disability. To improve reading proficiency and to build on the successes of Project READiness early literacy support in Bellevue's high-needs elementary schools, we will work to incorporate culturally responsive curriculum and instruction and enhance balanced literacy instruction through guided reading.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Multicultural books are like mirrors and windows. They can serve as a mirror to those whose lives are reflected in texts that are read in the classroom and be affirming to students. When students read about the lives and experiences of others, a window is opened to new cultures and perspectives.

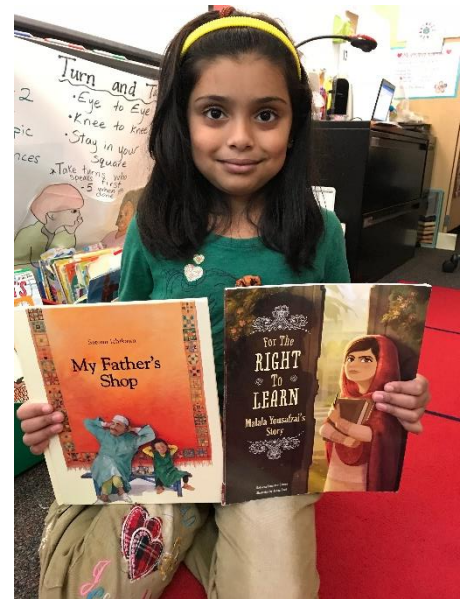
Culturally responsive literacy seeks to engage all children in the joy of reading. This project will place multicultural books in kindergarten classrooms and provide professional development on balanced literacy in culturally responsive classrooms and coaching for teachers to support reading development of students. The project will begin this year at six schools including five high-needs elementary schools, Ardmore, Lake Hills, Sherwood Forest, Stevenson, and Woodridge, and the newly opened Wilburton Elementary. The project will be expanded across the district over the next three years.

Budget: \$40,000/year

Timeline: September 2018—June 2021

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

Beginning, middle and end-of-year reading assessment data using Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and text reading comprehension (TRC) will measure student progress.



Books that reflect students' families and open windows to the world around them help to engage children and support reading development.