

Community Improvement Strategy for Seminole County

Seminole County seeks to improve educational attainment and literacy for its future citizens by increasing the early literacy skills of its Kindergarteners and Pre-K Students.

Issues to be Addressed

Poverty and unemployment are serious problems in Seminole County, with 10.3% of residents unemployed and 37.7% of children living below the poverty level. Seminole County leaders have recognized the economically and socially destructive impact of these trends and are committed to setting goals and achieving increased early literacy skills of the children in the early years of school. Seminole County will offer tutoring opportunities and provide computer classes for all kindergarten and pre-K students, thereby strengthening their educational foundation to ensure success throughout their educational careers and transition into the county workforce. By focusing on early reading training (and other programs), county leaders seek to provide students with the best possible opportunity to succeed in their educational experience. With better educated residents, Seminole County will offer a stronger workforce to attract new industry and jobs to the area, thus enhancing overall economic development and improving the standard of living/quality of life. The community's goal is to have all students reading on 3rd grade level in 3rd grade.

Measures of Success:

1. Seminole County will increase the percentage of 1st graders that meet or exceed the standard on the CRCT Test in Reading from 90.8% in 2009 to 92.8% in 2011 and 95% in 2012.
2. Seminole County will increase the percentage of 1st graders that meet or exceed the standard on the CRCT Test in English Language Arts from 85% in 2009 to 88% in 2011 and 91% in 2012.
3. A pre and post evaluation form will be filled out by teachers of the students selected for the Reading Lab program.
4. As the project continues other methods to measure success will be determined by school personnel and the COOP task force.

Implementation Plan

<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Responsible Local Partners</i>	<i>Responsible State Partners</i>	<i>Cost Estimate</i>	<i>Possible funding Sources</i>	<i>Start & End dates for completion of action item</i>
Establish Reading Lab by purchasing the Starfall Curriculum, computers and supplies for 2 reading labs.	Pre-K and Kindergarten Teachers, BOE, Bainbridge College, Albany State University, Family connections	GA DOE	\$7,500	Family Connections, Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County government	February 12, 2010 - ongoing
At the beginning of school year, all Pre-K and Kindergarten students will be given the Dibble Test.	Pre-K and Kindergarten Teachers	GA DOE	Cost included in above estimate	Family Connections, Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County government	July 2010 & ongoing
Dibble test scores will be evaluated by a committee of 5 teachers. Following evaluation and based on scores and abilities, the teachers will recommend no more than 20 students for the program	Pre-K and Kindergarten Teachers	GA DOE	Cost included in above estimate	Family Connections, Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County government	July 2010 & ongoing

Letters will be sent to parents to obtain permission for their child to participate in the program	School personnel and Family Connections	GA DOE	In-kind	n/a	July 2010 & ongoing
Family Connections will coordinate recruitment of volunteers through Bainbridge College, Albany State University and the community	Family Connections, Albany State University, Bainbridge College	GA Board of Regents	Cost included in the above estimate	Family Connections, Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County government	July 2010 & ongoing
Chamber of Commerce will assist with recruitment efforts by sponsoring public service announcements and newspaper articles	Chamber of Commerce and Family Connections	n/a	To be determined	Chamber of Commerce	July 2010 & ongoing
Family Connections will work with local law enforcement agencies to run background checks on all volunteers recruited	Family Connections and law enforcement agencies	n/a	In-kind	n/a	July 2010 & ongoing
Administer training for the volunteer tutors that will work in the reading lab	1 st Grande reading specialist	GA DOE	In-kind	n/a	Beginning of each school semester
At the end of the school year, each student will be given a Dibble retest for evaluation purposes.	Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers	GA DOE	In-kind	n/a	At the end of the regular school year
Participating students will also participate in the summer reading program, in which volunteers will work with the students on a one-on-one basis and the	Volunteer tutors, Media Center personnel	GA DOE	\$600.00	Family Connections, Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County government, and	June 2011 & ongoing

accelerated reading test will be offered.				community donations	
Summer Reading program will be publicized and incentives will be offered to all eligible students who participate	Chamber of Commerce and Family Connections	n/a	\$800.00	Family Connections, Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County government, and community donations	May 2011 & ongoing
Summer Reading Program Begins	Seminole County Literacy for Life, BOE, Family Connections	n/a	\$10,000	Local donation, Family Connections, Chamber of Commerce, Seminole Co Government	June 2011 & ongoing

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto Agree to adopt the Seminole County Community Improvement Strategy.

FOR THE RECIPIENT

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

By: _____

Chair, County

By: _____

Program Coordinator

By: _____

Mayor, City