LEARN TO READ /
READ TO LEARN

**TRENTON LITERACY MOVEMENT**

349 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08618
Trenton Literacy Movement.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**HON. DOUGLAS PALMER**
**Chairman**

**EDWARD BULLOCK**
**President**

**JESSIE TOSSIE**
**Vice President**

**WALTER BLISS**
**Board Secretary**

**SEAN JACKSON**
**Corresponding Secretary**

**FRED HERNDON**
**Finance Chair**

**CARM CATANESE**
**Fundraising Chair**

**LUCY FERIA**
**Education Chair**

**MARCELLUS D. SMITH**

**JONETTE SMART**

**BARBARA FLYTHE**

**PATRICIA A. HALL**

**KEITH V. HAMILTON**

Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask for your support of the Trenton Literacy Movement (TLM). We are a group of citizens committed to solving Trenton's literacy crisis and we are asking that you join our effort.

**Our Crisis:** Standardized tests show that in Trenton Public Schools, over 80% of our 3rd grade students read below grade level. Direct literacy instruction ends in third grade. Thereafter, children are expected to use their literacy skills to acquire new information. When children do not have proficient literacy skills, each year, they fall further and further behind in all areas of their education.

**Our Mission:** TLM provides resources to empower and support our students to read at or above grade level by the time they start the fourth grade.

**Our Strategy:** TLM galvanizes partnerships between our community and Trenton Public Schools to support evidence-based interventions to end Trenton's literacy crisis.

Lexia Learning, a Rosetta Stone company, is a teacher-assisted computerized reading program. With the program, students receive individualized instruction, specifically tailored to their level of proficiency. By regularly assessing students' areas of literacy strengths and weaknesses, and providing individualized instruction in the form of engaging activities and games, the program progressively builds skills.

The effectiveness of the Lexia program has been demonstrated in the pilot programs in several Trenton elementary schools as well as in programs in the Trenton Housing Authority over the past four years. The results have been so remarkable that the school district has purchased Lexia software for all elementary schools. Children are using Lexia during the school day and seeing great results! Some of the lowest performing students would benefit from more time with the program – more time than they are currently receiving during the school day.

TLM is working with the School District to provide supplementary after-school literacy instruction to children in all 13 of our elementary schools in the form of after- school reading classes. Specifically, we want to sponsor a 3-days/week, 40 minutes/day after -school literacy program that uses Lexia together with teacher support during the 2017-2018 school years.

**We Need Your Help:** To accomplish this goal, TLM needs your help. Yes, we are asking for a few of your hard-earned dollars to help give children living in Trenton an opportunity to improve their literacy skills. For $370, you can cover the cost for one child to participate in this learning experience. This investment will substantially improve the prospects for our most vulnerable children to develop into successful students and adults.

Please make your tax-deductible check out to TLM's fiscal sponsor, The Mid-Jersey Center for Economic Development, a 501c(3) corporation of the Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce. In the memo line of your check, please write Trenton Literacy Movement.

Send checks to : The Trenton Literacy Movement
c/o Mid-Jersey Center for Economic Development
423 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08611

Sincerely,