Turning the Tide in the Literacy Crisis

Trenton Literacy Movement
trentonliteracymovement.org
5/13/2017
Evidence shows Trenton is in a reading crisis...

Trenton Elementary School Reading Proficiency 2014-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Elementary School</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>% of 4th Graders Reading at 4th Grade level</th>
<th>School Academic Rank in NJ (%-ile)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robbins</td>
<td>412 in K-4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6th %-ile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mott</td>
<td>417 in K-5</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker</td>
<td>537 in K-5</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>372 in K-5</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>334 in K-5</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Robeson</td>
<td>541 in K-5</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>280 in K-4</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>414 in K-5</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>514 in K-5</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory</td>
<td>352 in K-5</td>
<td>less than 10%</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>420 in K-8</td>
<td>less than 10%</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.L. King Jr</td>
<td>624 in K-8</td>
<td>less than 10%</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.J. Hill</td>
<td>360 in K-5</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trenton Literacy Movement (TLM) Mission

To ensure that all Trenton school children read at grade level by grade 3. Reading is the base upon which all other learning builds.

TLM’s 2017 Agenda

• Immediate support for Trenton Scholl District’s 2017-2018, 2nd grade reading acceleration plan
• Inclusion of a software-based reading tutor (Lexia) as part of in-class teaching methods and after-school remedial interventions
• Implementation of a tracking and efficacy management process, in collaboration with researchers at Educational Testing Services.
The Trenton Literacy Movement (TLM)

Born out of the commitment of the NAACP Trenton Branch to educational equality.

Seeks to galvanize partnering between the Trenton community and Trenton Public Schools to wipe out Trenton’s literacy crisis.

Four years experience in identifying and applying educational technologies that improve reading outcomes for children in inner-city schools.

Results-driven - using results from 4-years of summer camps, after school classes, and recent in-class use of Lexia: the most effective software-based reading tutors available.

Practical – building on investments in computers, software and teacher training already made by the Trenton District
We are part of a MOVEMENT. Organizations that have supported TLM

Trenton Public Schools,  
The City of Trenton  
The NAACP, Trenton Branch  
Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
Mayor Palmer’s Trenton First Initiative  
Trenton Council of Civic Associations  
Trenton Public Education Foundation  
Coretta Scott King Humanitarian Group  
Campaign to End the New Jim Crow  
Trenton Housing Authority  
Trenton YMCA and YWCA  
Mercer Street Friends  
The Estate of Peter Sacco  
1 Westcliff Manor Apartments, LLC  
Community Foundation of New Jersey  
Ambutran Medical Transportation Co.  
Pars Environmental  
Strategic Management and Securities Solutions  
GHO Ventures  
Northfield Bank  
The Grainger Foundation  
Homasote Company  
Hutchinson Industries  
Markowitz O’Donnell LLP  
Nexus Properties  
The Switlick Foundation  
Kenny, Chase & Costa  
Fulton Bank of NJ  
Grand Bank, NA  
The Hibbert Group  
Investors Bank Foundation  
Roma Bank Foundation  
Credit Union of New Jersey  
Zeta Phi Beta  
Clarke-Franklin Assoc.  
Mercury EMS LLC
Why Focus on Reading

Reading is the foundational skill for all learning and the key focus for early education.

• Two key curriculum rules:
  Grade K-3 students “Learn to Read”
  Grade 4 to adulthood “Read to Learn”.

• From Grade 4, explicit instruction in reading is replaced with other subjects making reading competence assumed and essential.

• Students who cannot read by Grade 4 are prime targets to fall into the “School to Prison Pipeline”.
... yet of the 16 Trenton 5th grade students TLM worked with, over 50% could only read at 2nd grade level or below!

![Bar chart showing the percentage of 5th graders by reading level enrolled in THA 2015 Summer Camp.]

- Pre-K: 5%
- Kindergarten: 15%
- 1st Grade: 10%
- 2nd Grade: 25%
- 3rd grade: 25%
- 4th Grade: 20%
- 5th Grade: 5%

*Before the 6 wks*
Trenton District’s Chosen Approach: Lexia Software

Lexia software:
- supplements teachers’ instruction
- uses game-like practice tailored to each child’s needs and level
- student progress is constantly monitored without testing
- teachers get feedback about the child’s instructional needs

effectively, a student’s personal tutor!

Lexia effectiveness has been demonstrated in TLM’s 4-year partnership with the Trenton Housing Authority and in pilot programs in several Trenton Schools in the 2015-2016 school year

The results have been so remarkable that the District has purchased licenses for all [elementary] students
Lexia used successfully in the Trenton School District
Results from Three Schools in 2015-16 School Year

Percentage of Lexia Students Reading
At / Above Grade Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Before Lexia</th>
<th>After Lexia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robbins School (227)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory School (171)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson School (78)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Trenton School District has asked TLM for help

The District Administration, impressed with Lexia results, has implemented Lexia in all elementary schools.

Trenton’s Superintendent, Ribon, has asked TLM’s help:
• to rapidly accelerate the reading competence of 2nd-graders who read furthest below grade level
• by providing them with 3-days/week, 40 minutes/day after school Lexia reading instruction.
• TLM is initiating fund-raising to cover the costs of teachers in this after-school initiative, ranging from $4,200 - $12,600 per school.

TLM is working to plan, fund and implement the Superintendent’s request
The Plan

What’s already been done?
• after-school class, funded by TLM members, launched in February, 2017.
• A second after-school program, funded by Northfield Bank, launched in early March, 2017.

Next Steps:
• Raise funds to support after-school programs in all 12 elementary schools in the 2017-18 school year.

Assessment is key: TLM has enlisted the support of 3 researchers from Educational Testing Services to monitor progress and assure the program meets goals.
2016 Trenton School District Literacy Thrust
... fund-raising ...

• TLM is raising funds from Trenton-area stakeholders... foundations, corporations, individuals.

• As part of Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson’s *My Brothers Keeper* initiative, this fund-raising has the support of the Mayor, political leaders, and the School District.

• This investment will substantially improve the prospects of our neediest children, and build momentum for after-school reading programs in both Trenton’s and other New Jersey urban schools.

• *Please contribute for these youngsters*