

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****January 4, 2022**

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SUBJECT: SUMMER READING PROGRAM UPDATE

This informal report will provide a brief history and current update on the City of Fort Worth Summer Reading Program.

The overall goal for this program is to increase grade-level reading across Fort Worth, with the long-term goal of ensuring that all children in the third grade will be reading at grade level. The Summer Reading Program is provided through Read Fort Worth, CFW Neighborhood Services Department, CFW Park & Recreation Department, Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD), and other community partners.

The Summer Reading Program was formed in 2016 under the leadership of former Mayor Betsy Price, Matt Rose of Burlington Northern Santa Fe; and Superintendent Kent Scribner of FWISD. City leadership recognized that student reading skills in the City of Fort Worth were at an all-time low and that focusing on early learning skills would be vital to future academic success.

The purpose of the Summer Reading Program is to help children ages 5 to 9 avoid summer learning loss and gain literacy skills so that they are ready to succeed when returning to school in the fall. This past summer the program was conducted for six weeks and included 1,047 participants. Nearly all (99.7%) of the summer scholars who participated in the CFW program either showed growth (61% of the students) or maintained grade-level reading (39%) from the beginning to the end of summer.

The City of Fort Worth and FWISD staff will collaborate to provide more substantial organizational alignment based on observations made from this past summer program. These actions will include partnering on training and sharing expertise to ensure that children who participate in future summer programs will sustain and improve their reading capacity.

The following data show that this program is helping to improve reading skills:

Year	Gain	Maintain	Overall
2018	59%	12%	71%
2020	63%	37%	100%
2021	60.9%	38.8%	99.7%

Note: In 2019 scores were not calculated. See attachment for additional data displaying a four-year average of third graders reading at grade level per school district. Aledo ISD has the highest average at 65 percent and Lake Worth the lowest at 22 percent.

Please feel free to direct all questions to Lawrence Thompson, Education Strategies Manager, 817-392-6575.

David Cooke
City Manager

