



**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**June 16, 2020**

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**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON 2020 100X25 CFW READING INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to highlight various aspects of the City's 100x25 Reading Instruction Program that is a component of the City of Fort Worth Summer Day Camp (SDC) 2020.

The City launched its first formalized Reading Instruction Program during summer 2019. The Program was hosted at 20 Community Centers, four (4) Mobile Recreation Sites, one (1) community apartment, the Valley at Cobb Park and one (1) Fort Worth Independent Elementary School, Van Zandt Guinn. Approximately 2,500 participants, ages 5 -13 years old, were enrolled in Camp.

Results were notable: in January 2020 Fort Worth ISD reported that students participating in the City's Reading Instruction Program were performing better than their peers who did not.

Summer Day Camp 2020 is reduced significantly in scope and size. Duration of the Program is currently scheduled for Monday, June 29 – Friday, August 7, 2020, six (6) weeks rather than the usual nine (9) weeks. Only 22 locations will host the SDC this summer; 19 Community Centers, two (2) Mobile Recreation sites and one (1) non-City of Fort Worth site—Kingdom Manifesters, 4601 McCurdy. The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center hosts the A.B. Christian Learning Center's Freedom School and is not listed as a City of Fort Worth sponsored program. However, A.B. Christian Learning Center is a partner with Read Fort Worth (RFW) and its program goal is consistent with other community partners, including the City of Fort Worth. SDC estimated enrollment is 750 -800 compared to approximately 2500 last summer.

Though the City's Reading Instruction Program for summer 2020 is reduced in scope and size, it will be improved in the following ways:

**Reading Instruction:** Twelve part-time, temporary Literacy Support Specialist (LSS) will provide direct reading instruction to the children. These persons have credentials and/or experience in reading instruction, early learning or elementary education. Seven (7) of these persons will be hired by the City. Read Fort Worth will recruit, select, assign and fund five (5) LSSs to support the City's Reading Instruction Program. Last year RFW funded four (4) LSS positions. Additionally, existing staff will take refresher training based on last year's instruction strategy, the six (6) best practices for reading instruction. Staff training will be conducted virtually by Texas Wesleyan professors using Blackboard Collaborate.

**Strategic Assignments:** Each of the 12 LSSs will be assigned to two (2) locations for a minimum of two (2) hours daily. These assignments guarantee quality reading instruction based on the six (6) best practices.....phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, fluency and writing. Existing staff will reinforce these reading best practices through activities to be integrated into recreation, sports, crafts and games, such as the game of Hop Scotch.

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**Instructional Materials:** Each location will have a collection of materials from the recommended reading list provided by the Texas Wesleyan professors who developed the program. The purchase of Instructional Materials was funded in part through the Mayor's Promotion Fund, City of Fort Worth Fire Department and Cowboy Santa's.

**Availability of Free Books:** Read Fort Worth, Trinity Basin Preparatory School, and Friends of the Fort Worth Library will provide "like new" books. Each participant will have at least one free book to take home.

**Data Collection:** Parental Consent to share student data will be captured during online registration. Getting Parental Consent on the front end should result in an increase in student data to share and analyze.

**Student Assessment:** Student assessment will be conducted utilizing Read A – Z. The assessment tool has been vetted and approved by Read Fort Worth and Fort Worth ISD. The Literacy Support Specialist will proctor the assessment on first and last day of Camp.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Gleniece A. Robinson, Director, Education Strategies, at 817-392-6575, 817-944-6900 or e-mail, [Gleniece.Robinson@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:Gleniece.Robinson@fortworthtexas.gov).

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