Thinking About...

Nationwide, 47 percent of all kindergartners and 60 percent of those from an impoverished background cannot read on grade level by the end of third grade. The number of negative long-term life consequences individuals and organizations in Manatee and Sarasota counties are coming together to stop is more than just a number — it's a chance to change and learning opportunities - through the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR).

Part of the reason for 58 percent conversation in the national COLA network, the Suncoast CGLR is a community-wide effort to prepare all children and support with us by clicking support the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

For more information, visit the recently launched Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading website: www.gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net

Moving The Needle

The national campaign emphasizes the importance of engaging in challenges early on in life, starting with quality parent/teacher engagement before birth — before children enter a classroom. Each county has its unique challenges to address and there are many opportunities to pursue excellence.

Based on 2014 FCAT scores:

- 91% of students in Sarasota County (7,996 out of 8,831 students) in third grade and above can read on grade level.
- 77% of students in Sarasota County (7,175 of 9,398 students) in third grade and above can read on grade level.
- According to 2014 enrollment statistics:
  - 90% of School County students in pre-K through third grade (5,100 students) qualify for free and reduced lunch.
  - 10% of Sarasota County students in pre-K through third grade (5,100 students) qualify for free and reduced lunch.

While each county is making progress, our communities are for excellence. Unique opportunities are needed to tackle the needs and challenges of each county. But there is much to share and learn together. These may be healthy learning circles, and strategies that may benefit both counties, such as work to keep helping children back to work in school, and in life.

Learning & Sharing

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with order and attended to with discipline." — Abigail Adams

Bedtime Reading/Learning Resources

Wilma Hamilton Davis, retired Superintendent of Schools in Sarasota County, and Lorraine Stanfield, recently retired Florida Superintendent for Continuous and Alternative for Suncoast County, recently joined together to present the Essential Questions: Why does Early Learning Matter? to interested community members.

To download the presentation, click here.

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Volunteers

For more information, please see www.gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net. This website will become a hub of information about the campaign's focus areas.

Learn, Connect & Share on Facebook

Keep up to date and like the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Facebook page to stay informed on upcoming events and news related to the Campaign.

Comment on Twitter

Join the conversation on Twitter using #GLReading and follow the national campaign.

Take Action

Support the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading by sharing your aspirations with us by clicking here.