

Archived Information



No Child Left Behind Summer Reading Achievers

March 2003

Dear Principal:

Spring is just days away, and the end of the 2002-2003 school year is not far behind. As the summer vacation approaches, we invite your school to participate in a special new program that encourages students to practice reading during the summer months and helps to avoid the loss of reading skills that often occurs during the long vacation.

The U.S. Department of Education and the Atlanta Public Schools are proud to announce that Atlanta's schools have been chosen as the pilot site for the "No Child Left Behind Summer Reading Achievers." The district's strong school leaders, recent gains in reading achievement, high percentage of students in need, and other factors combine to make Atlanta a worthy place to test a summer reading program that we hope will be available to schools across the country next year.

As the enclosed fact sheet explains, the "Summer Reading Achievers" program's features are simple. Students will be asked to read 10 age-appropriate books over the summer months and to tell us about the books they have read on a form provided. Students who successfully complete the program will be rewarded in the fall with a certificate, signed by us and suitable for framing, as well as other incentives to be announced.

We need your help. Next month, you will receive a package of material from the U.S. Department of Education, including the program guidelines, take-home brochures for students and parents, a poster, instructions for ordering certificates at no cost, and other information on how your school can participate. Schools that have at least 70 percent of their students engaged in the program this summer are eligible to receive certificates. In addition to the awarding of certificates, our plan is to honor the highest participating schools and their students with additional incentives and special recognition from national and local sponsoring organizations.

We hope you will join us in this effort to help Atlanta's students become "Summer Reading Achievers." And we thank you for all you are doing to ensure that no child is left behind.

Sincerely,

Beverly L. Hall
Superintendent

Rod Paige
Secretary

Enclosures

