

Washington County Schools Joins TN Literacy Coach Network

Washington County Schools has utilized literacy coaches for over seven years, resulting in an increase in the number of our students reading at or above grade level. In an effort to maximize student growth and achievement, we have increased our number of literacy coaches to 12 for the 2017-2018 school year. This increase in literacy coaches was made possible through a joint effort of the Washington County School Board and the Washington County Commission.

Last year, when Tennessee created a network of literacy coaches to help classroom teachers improve their students' reading, Washington County Schools joined this initiative. Now entering the program's second year, another 16 districts are joining up. That means two-thirds of Tennessee districts will have instructional supports in place aimed at addressing the state's lackluster reading levels.

In Tennessee, less than half of the students in grades 3-8 were considered proficient in reading in 2015, the last year for which test scores are available. New scores coming out this fall will help track progress.

The coaching network is a major component of Tennessee's Read to be Ready drive, launched in 2016 by Gov. Bill Haslam and Education Commissioner Candice McQueen. The focus is helping teachers improve literacy instruction for the state's youngest students. So far, some 200 coaches have worked directly with more than 3,000 teachers in 83 districts, including all four urban districts. This fall, 99 out of the state's 146 school systems will participate.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/tn/2017/08/16/more-literacy-coaches-to-bolster-tennessees-drive-to-boost-student-reading/>



Heather Shelton's Kindergarten class at Grandview School