



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Molina Foundation Grants More Than 5,500 New Books to Arkansas A+ Schools

The Molina Foundation and Arkansas A+ Schools are tackling the “summer reading slide” together. The Molina Foundation has just announced a grant of more than 5,500 new children’s books to eight Arkansas A+ Schools across the state. Arriving over the next few days at schools in Blytheville, Clarendon, Helena, Jacksonville, Judsonia and Little Rock books will be given to children to take home for the summer months.

According to a report from the National Summer Learning Association, students from low-income families who do not read over the summer lose more than two months of reading achievement. The “summer slide” and is an extraordinary challenge for children of all ages. This has a cumulative effect, with these students experiencing greater learning loss each summer. By the end of 6th grade, children will be two years behind their classmates.

“Stopping the summer reading slide for our children is a place where we – as a community - can have tremendous impact,” says Dr. Martha Bernadett, President and Founder of The Molina Foundation. “Reading just five or six books this summer can keep a child on track. In many of these schools, I’ve learned that teachers are providing parents with tips and guidance for summer learning. We are so happy to support such remarkable educators in Arkansas.”

“We are happy to partner with The Molina Foundation in their effort to thwart the ‘summer reading slide’ for the children in Arkansas A+ Schools. Many of the children have no access to public libraries so this is a wonderful opportunity for them to build their own home-library,” says Melanie Landrum, Executive Director of Arkansas A+ Schools.

The books will be arriving over the next few days at Arkansas A+ Schools:

- Booker Arts Magnet, Little Rock
- Clarendon Elementary School, Clarendon
- KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School, Blytheville
- KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy, Helena
- KIPP Delta College Preparatory School, Helena
- KIPP Delta Collegiate High School, Helena
- Murrell Taylor Elementary School, Jacksonville
- White County Central Elementary School, Judsonia

All summer long The Molina Foundation will be sharing simple, literacy-rich activities for parents via Twitter at @MolinaGiving.

About The Molina Foundation

The Molina Foundation (www.molinafoundation.org) is a national nonprofit organization focused on reducing disparities in access to education and health. Over the past 10 years, the Foundation has worked with more than 1,000 organizations and schools towards this end, donating more than 3 million new books and hosting dozens of workshops and programs for educators and families. The Molina Foundation is based in Harbor City, California.

About Arkansas A+ Schools

Arkansas A+ Schools is a research-based, whole-school network with a mission of nurturing creativity in

every learner through an arts-integrated network. A+ Schools combine interdisciplinary teaching and daily arts instruction, offering children opportunities to develop creative, innovative ways of thinking, learning and showing what they know.

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