Tips and Best Practices for a Successful Summer Reading Program

Use these simple steps to help your school, students, and parents make the most of summer reading.

STEP 1: Recruit a Summer Reading Team

- Start early! Springtime can be busy with testing and other schoolwide activities, so start recruiting team members as soon as possible.

- Invite faculty, IT staff, and parents to be a part of the team. Ask them to help plan and advertise summer reading activities, including the Book Fair and the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge.

STEP 2: Get Your Team and Students Excited About Summer Reading

- Hold a summer reading pep rally for students, and plan a Parent Summer Reading Workshop (available from the Toolkit) to start generating enthusiasm.

- Encourage students to make a list of favorite authors and subjects. It will help them figure out the kinds of books to choose at the Book Fair.

- Ask students to sign a pledge indicating their own summer reading goals.

- Set a reading goal and post it for everyone to see, in school and online. Designate a faculty member to complete a wacky stunt or grant a special privilege if your school meets its summer reading goal.

- Let students practice entering minutes on the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge website during school hours for at least one cycle.

STEP 3: Advertise and Update

- Put together a calendar, noting important events, tasks, and benchmarks throughout the summer months that your team, students, and school community need to know.

- Download summer reading program reproducibles from the Toolkit—available in Spanish language versions, too!

- Send a personal letter home to parents from your principal outlining the importance of summer reading, as well as tools they can access through the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge website.

- Send updates via email on reading minute status to parents, teachers, and students throughout the summer.