PURPOSE

In partnership with NCAA, Fort Worth Sports Commission, Helper Helper, and Scholastic Fort Worth ISD students in grades pre-K - 5 will have the opportunity to participate in the *Readers Become Leaders® Literacy Program*. The purpose of this program is to provide school districts with a program to create excitement about reading for elementary students in NCAA Championship cities with a friendly competition.

Competition Outline

The overall competition is based on the collective average number of minutes read by each student. This allows schools with a smaller number of students to compete with larger schools.

School librarians will register their classrooms and determine whether they want one person entering all the minutes or if they prefer the individual teacher to go in and register on the link and upload their classes minutes weekly. Once the program starts, students will submit their minutes of reading each week to their teacher, and the school/teacher will get those comprehensive totals uploaded in the system.

The totals will be posted each week so schools can see how they are doing against the other schools. The program will last 10 weeks, and six schools will be invited to the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championships practice on April 14th where a winner will be announced.

Competition Rules

- The child and parent/guardian will be responsible for logging the number of minutes they read each day.
- Weekly Reading Log will go from Monday – Sunday.
- At the end of the week (Sunday), the parent/guardian needs to sign off on the reading log, and the student will turn it in to their teacher by the time designated by their teacher
- The teacher will add their classes minutes up and turn that number into the school captain (or log themselves).
- We ask that all minutes be logged for the week on Monday by 8pm CST for the previous week's minutes.

- You can count minutes that a teacher reads to the class (example, reading a book to the class, not instructions or math problems)
    - Core Curriculum and i-Ready do not count
- Students who are visually or hearing impaired may count minutes when someone reads to them.
- Reading-minute submissions may be reviewed after weeks 3 and 6 and at any other time needed to verify accuracy. Schools may be asked to provide student reading logs, platform reports, classroom totals, or other supporting documentation. Minutes that cannot be verified, or that do not meet program rules may be adjusted or removed.

What Cannot Be Counted for RBL Minutes:

- Reading completed as part of required core literacy instruction or an adopted core curriculum. Reading completed as part of a required core instructional literacy block or adopted literacy curriculum does not count.
- i-Ready, Amplify, Bluebonnet Phonics, and other instructional or intervention program minutes. Minutes generated by instructional or intervention programs do not count.
- Time spent reading directions, instructions, math problems, test questions, or other non-literary classroom tasks.
- Estimated or unverified minutes that are not supported by the required weekly documentation.

What Can Be Counted for RBL Minutes:

- Independent reading completed by a student outside required core literacy instruction, including homework and weekend reading. Independent, enrichment, library, homework, weekend, and approved reading-challenge minutes may count if they meet all other RBL requirements.
- Reading recorded on the official weekly reading log and verified according to program procedures.
- Approved teacher, librarian, or caregiver read-alouds involving a story, book, or eligible text. Group read-aloud minutes may be multiplied by the number of students who listened.
- Reading completed through district-approved digital reading platforms as ebooks in myOn, and Sora.
- Reading completed for approved school, district, library, or community reading challenges.
- Approved reading-access accommodations. Such as Learning Ally for dyslexic, visually impaired or hearing-impaired students.
- Reading to a class from a story or book can be counted. If a teacher reads 10 minutes from a story to a group of 20 students, this will count as 200 minutes.

- Audiobook listening counts only when the student follows along with the written text.

The program dates are as follows:

- November 2nd - Registration Opens
- January 22nd – Last Day to Register
- January 25th – Competition Begins and Kick-off Party
- April 5th – Last day to log minutes
- April 14th– Winner announced at Dickies Arena

Prize Structure:

- All Registered Schools that Record Minutes
  - $400 Scholastic Credit
- Grand Prize (Top School Overall)
  - $2,500 Scholastic Credit
  - $500 gift card for pizza party
  - $75 Visa Gift Card for each teacher in the Helper Helper system
  - Scholastic Grab and Go Packet Summer Book Pack for each student
  - Clifford for Pizza Party
- 1st Place School in Remaining Divisions (3 Schools)
  - $1,750 Scholastic Credit
  - $500 gift card for pizza party
  - $75 gift card for each teacher in Helper Helper System
- 2nd Place School in each Division (4 schools)
  - $1,000 Scholastic Credit
  - $50 Visa Gift Card for each teacher in the Helper Helper system
  - $500 gift card for pizza party
- Most Improved School (1 school)
  - $750 Scholastic Credit
  - $500 pizza party
- Top Classroom for All Grades Pre-K-5 (8 classes)
  - $500 gift card for pizza party (if not included in existing pizza party winners)

Please note: Results will be based on average minutes read per student.

Overall Winner Announcement - Dickies Arena

Six schools will be invited to attend that award ceremony for Readers Become Leaders at Dickies Arena. The program will begin at 11am on April 14th, and transportation and lunch will be provided by Fort Worth ISD.

Schools that will attend will be:

- Top average minutes read school in Each Division (4 Schools)
- Highest average minutes read school who is not a division winner
- Most improved school from 2026 to 2027