



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

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State Awards \$3.9 Million to Extend Literacy Initiatives to All PCSD Schools

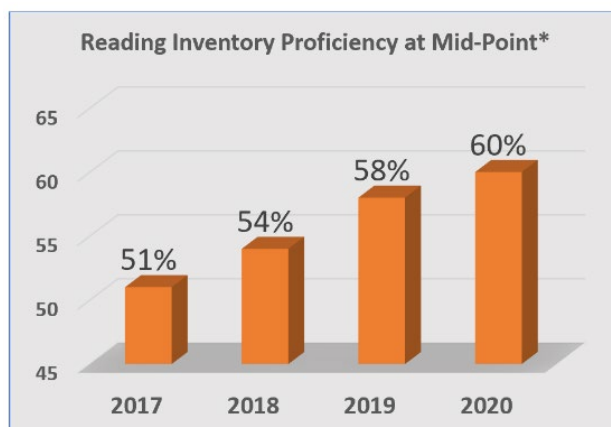
The Paulding County School District was awarded \$3.9 million in Year One of a five-year grant to implement literacy initiatives at all grade levels at schools throughout the district, the Georgia Department of Education announced Thursday. At its June 18, 2020 meeting, the state Board of Education approved the Paulding County School District's second grant application for Literacy for Learning, Living and Leading in Georgia (L4GA).

According to the state Department of Education, school districts and their community partners were selected through an independent, competitive sub-grant process and were chosen based on demonstrating great strides in student literacy learning and on the strength of their applications. The Georgia Department of Education awarded funds to effectively improve outcomes for the largest possible population of Georgia's students, and the broader L4GA initiative will provide almost \$180 million in support (including professional learning) for all Georgia school districts. The grant approved for PCSD was the single largest award, and through the five-year period is anticipated to total \$19.5 million.

In 2018, PCSD was the largest awardee in the first round of L4GA when it received \$4.5 million over three years to implement specific literacy initiatives and training at 18 Paulding County schools, plus two local preschools. The new grant award approved Thursday will allow the school district to implement similar literacy initiatives in the district's remaining 15 schools, plus one additional local preschool.

"This grant award presents a tremendous opportunity for our school district to continue its steady trend of academic improvement," said Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott. "I want to thank the state Department of Education for approving this grant and allowing us to continue with the literacy focus that has already made a measurable difference in student performance at 18 of our schools, and will now allow us to positively impact all PCSD schools."

The district used funds from the first L4GA grant to provide quality training and reading instruction resources with a focus on K-5 classrooms in the Hiram and South Paulding high school feeder patterns. Additionally, the district implemented computer-based intervention programs for students who needed additional support. The results netted measurable improvement in students' literacy skills, including among the subgroups, as measured by a Reading Inventory assessment given multiple times per school year.



*Based on data at mid-points of respective school years. End-of-year data for 2020 not available due to COVID-19 pandemic.

L4GA PHASE 2 IMPACT SCHOOLS

PRE-SCHOOL

YMCA Early Care Center

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Abney ES	Poole ES
Allgood ES	Roberts ES
Burnt Hickory ES	Russom ES
Northside ES	Shelton ES

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

East Paulding MS	McClure MS
Herschel Jones MS	Moses MS

HIGH SCHOOLS

Paulding County HS
East Paulding HS
North Paulding HS

“We know that literacy is the single most reliable indicator of a child’s prospects for success both academically while in school and later as adults beyond school,” said Dr. Susan Browning, the district’s Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. “Providing interventions early, where they are needed and with a differentiated approach, is critical for keeping students engaged throughout their academic career. The L4GA grant is helping us do that and the results have been impressive so far. We are seeing real improvement in academic performance as we strive to boost literacy skills from ‘cradle to college.’ “

In addition to Year Two funding from this new award, next year the school district will also have the opportunity to apply for extending the original L4GA grant to a fourth and fifth year.

(Note: L4GA grant funds can be used only to fulfill the specific academic initiatives outlined in the district’s grant application over five years and cannot be used for other purposes – including to offset potential shortfalls in the district’s operating budget.)

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