

**EMBARGO**

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## **Every 1 Reads Reaches Four-Year Milestone**

Initiative Will Continue to Move Readers to Higher Levels

Hundreds of community leaders, volunteers, and business partners celebrated the four-year milestone in the journey toward building a community of successful readers at the annual **Every 1 Reads** breakfast meeting held this morning at Cochran Elementary School, 500 West Gaulbert Avenue. The **Every 1 Reads** partners—Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson, Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Superintendent Sheldon H. Berman, and GLI President and CEO Joe Reagan—also announced the launch of **Every 1 Reads More**, a continuation plan to sustain the literacy improvement program in the classroom with volunteer tutors and corporate support.

**Every 1 Reads More** will focus on increasing the numbers of students reading and writing at Proficient and Distinguished levels, while continuing to provide interventions to Novice-level students. Four thousand volunteers will be needed to sustain the effort, and local businesses will be asked to contribute \$5.63 million to fund the continuation.

Participants at the annual meeting received the following update on the 2007–08 **Every 1 Reads** achievements:

- The goal of recruiting and training 10,000 volunteers was exceeded.
- Local businesses achieved the \$8 million fundraising goal.
- The Spring 2008 Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) results showed that reading scores have improved since the beginning of **Every 1 Reads** from 18.6 percent Novice readers (18,000 students) in 2003 to 9.4 percent Novice readers (8,500 students) in 2008.
- The 2008 CATS scores showed a 19 percent increase in Proficient and Distinguished readers since the beginning of the **Every 1 Reads** initiative.
- The 2008 CATS scores showed that writing scores have improved since 2003, with the number of Novice writers falling from 25.8 percent to 9.35 percent.
- A total of 89 community- and faith-based organizations partnered with **Every 1 Reads** for after-school programming. Fifty-three of the after-school programs for youths have been endorsed as **Every 1 Reads** sites and have served more than 11,500 students this year. The percentage of those students in after-school programs reading at or above grade level increased from 78 percent in 2005 to 87 percent in 2008.

The 2007–08 school year marked the fourth year of full implementation for **Every 1 Reads**, a partnership among Greater Louisville Inc. (GLI), JCPS, and Louisville Metro Government.

**For more information, contact Lauren E. Roberts, public information officer, at 485-3357.**

###JCPS###