



# **Early Literacy Matters!**

# **Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**

### Monthly Newsletter | November 2019

The goal of the monthly newsletter is to provide information and resources that will help children in our region meet the critical benchmark of reading at grade level by the start of fourth grade. Please spread the word and share with anyone you know who is invested in helping children learn while developing a joy of reading.

In this issue, you'll learn about the importance of Attendance Works, community events and resources that are available in Hartford and New Britain.



## Great News! Attendance Works, WORKS!

#### In Hartford:

Attendance Data from last quarter in Harford Public Schools reveals that Chronic Absenteeism has been reduced by 5.4 percent. The comprehensive approach, including district-level and schoolbased teams focused on attendance, new support staff in schools, improved data tracking, mentoring and marketing campaigns have made an impact.

#### Learn More

#### In New Britain:

Preschool is an important time to lay the foundation for good attendance habits. Often, communitybased preschool programs have differing approaches to looking at absences or working with families. In New Britain, there has been a strong focus on the importance of attendance in preschool and how to align the work with preschool programs with the school district's attendance approach.

With support from the Fund for Greater Hartford, The Coalition for New Britain's Youth in collaboration with The Consolidated District of New Britain, is implementing a comprehensive approach to decreasing chronic absenteeism in preschool students. Community-based preschool programs will now be utilizing the same data system as used in the K-12 chronic absenteeism program, allowing them to track communications with families; run the same attendance reports; track trends within absences; and, track family interventions from the moment the child enters a community-based program until they graduate high school.

Keep up the great work Hartford and New Britain!

Here are some reminders to share with parents and caregivers:

#### Stay the course: Support Attendance During the Winter Months



Every winter, bad weather — snow, slush, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains in warmer climates — can present challenges to getting children to school. So do the colds, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months.

#### Here are some important reminders when keeping your child healthy:

- Dress them warmly for the cold weather.
- Stress the importance of eating a good breakfast every morning.
- Stress hand washing, particularly in the winter months.
- Send your child to school with a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Research shows that something as simple as hand washing can improve attendance.
- Talk to your doctor or school nurse about when a sick child should come to school. Most health providers allow a child to attend with a cold, but not with a fever.

## Get Involved in New Britain and Hartford! Community Forums Return to the Consolidated School District of New Britain

Hosted by Superintendent Nancy Sarra, they're set to begin again with the first event of the school year on Wednesday, November 13 at OIC of New Britain, located at 114 North Street. The meetand-greet event is open to all CSDNB families.



#### A Family and Community Workshop in Hartford

How is my child doing? How can I help?



PK-12

### Resources

- <u>Attendance Works</u>
- Coalition for New Britain's Youth
- <u>Consolidated School District of New Britain</u>
- Hartford Public Schools
- The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations

To learn more or share ideas for future newsletters, contact Latonia Tabb, Senior Manager, Education Initiatives, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut at 860-493-1128 or <u>Itabb@unitedwayinc.org</u>.

# Join Us!

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With support from individuals, workplaces and grants, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut has provided resources – including financial contributions and volunteers – to local community-based organizations since 1924. We mobilize the people and the resources needed to support programs and initiatives that create lasting solutions for the complex issues facing children and families in the region; such as the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (CGLR).

The Coalition for New Britain's Youth is a citywide collaborative committed to improving the lives of New Britain's youth, birth through age 24, and working to ensure they have what they need to be successful in school, career, and life.

Nationally the CGLR is a partnership between schools, municipalities, businesses and community organizations to rally behind a coordinated effort to ensure all youth are reading on grade level by the end of third grade, a critical milestone and predictor of on-time high school graduation.



A special thanks to The Fund for Greater Hartford for their investment that supports the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's communications plan!



United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut

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