



MEDIA RELEASE

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Four elementary schools honored for K-3 reading results

WICHITA – Four Kansas elementary schools were celebrated at a ceremony attended by Gov. Jeff Colyer last week for reaching a significant benchmark in reading despite high poverty.

Staff from the Kansas Reading Roadmap (KRR) programs at elementary schools in Chetopa, Concordia, Neosho Rapids and West Bourbon were honored for achieving 80 percent of K-3 students reading at or above grade level, a goal for KRR programs set forth by the Technical Assistance Systems Network (TASN).

KRR presented its Benchmark Achievement Award to staff at the organization's annual three-day training symposium, attended by about 300 KRR staff and tutors from across Kansas. Gov. Colyer spoke at the event and celebrated the accomplishment of the award recipients.

"These are four schools that have worked very hard to achieve the 80 percent threshold," KRR Executive Director Andrew Hysell said. "These four schools are showing that, in spite of poverty in a community, the staff and students are capable of great accomplishments."

Gov. Colyer accepted the KRR 2018 Education Champion award at the conference. He congratulated the Benchmark Achievement Award winners and posed for a photo with them after discussing the importance of childhood literacy at the gathering. He praised KRR for its impact as a poverty-alleviating measure.

"The ability to read is one of the greatest determining factors in a child's future," Gov. Colyer said. "We are bringing together forces that include the Boys & Girls Clubs, schools, state government and KRR to help more than 10,000 children and their families break the cycle of poverty. This kind of cross-agency collaboration is an example of making government work better for Kansans."

Since 2013, KRR has worked with more than 60 elementary schools and three Boys & Girls Clubs across the state, aligning afterschool, summer and family engagement programs with school data and practice. KRR seeks to ensure all students read at grade level upon entering the fourth grade.

KRR is a partnership between local schools, TASN, and the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). Funding for KRR is drawn from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, administered by DCF. DCF Secretary Gina Meier-Hummel also spoke at the gathering last Thursday.



(Chetopa KRR staff with Gov. Colyer: Phyllis Ross, Barbara Johnson, Gov. Jeff Colyer, Nancy McKibben, Julie Kepener, Marla Hart)



(Concordia KRR Program Coordinator Krystin Will with Governor Jeff Colyer)



(Neosho Rapids KRR staff with Gov. Colyer: Genesis Gonzalez, Program Coordinator Tena Cassity, Gov. Colyer and Kate Urban)



(West Bourbon KRR Program Coordinator Delta Pollock with Gov. Colyer)

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