



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes

December 10, 2025, 3:00PM – 4:30PM

Zoom Only

Meeting Objective: Make progress on “**Raising Readers**” community literacy campaign planning

Attendees: Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes), Aileen Garcia (University of Missouri Human Development and Family Sciences), Adielle Ehret (Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE)), Catherine Miller (MU-Boone County Early Childhood Coalition (BCECC)), Cindy Reese (BCECC), Kelly Scheuerman (City of Columbia/Boone County Public Health Department), Kristine Smith (Parents as Teachers – Columbia Public Schools (CPS)), Onni Flint (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL)), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome

- Partner Updates
 - i. Sarah Howard (DBRL) announced that Amy Lenory, who has worked at the library for 23 years, is retiring and an assistant youth manager position will be posted in January 2026.
 - ii. Enola-Riann White (BCCSD) shared that a Raising Readers Facebook page has been created, it is currently unpublished. She also shared that the logo has been converted to vector format for use on graphics. Enola also mentioned the need for a parental release form for the use of the otter logo. Onni Flint (CMCA) shared she would reach out to Mindy Hulet.

2. Review of Net Meeting

Cindy Resse (BCECC) provided an overview of the NET meeting, stating that the AI the River Otter was well received and there were no questions about the upcoming launch. There was discussion on being a spotlight organization during a future NET meeting. The January – March 2026 meetings are filled; Enola will reach out to request a spotlight in April or beyond.

3. Group work session on Raising Readers

- Kindergarten Observation Form and Data Collection
 - i. The group revisited using the Kindergarten Observation Form (KOF) and similar entry assessments as a metric for Raising Readers.
 - ii. Kristine Smith (CPS) shared that the tool measures language and literacy, with key early literacy indicators like recognizing letters, producing letter sounds, and retelling stories. The scores are on a 1-4 scale, and assessment is usually completed within the first six weeks of school. The workgroup agreed this would be a good multi-year data source, using de-identified data from multiple Boone County schools.
 - iii. Additional indicators discussed included Dolly Parton Imagination Library enrollment, social media engagement, event participation, and the creation of brief questions partners could embed in their existing event surveys.
- Organizational Participation
 - i. The workgroup discussed different ways organizations can participate in the campaign including tagging existing events, distributing campaign materials, and sharing event information. Sarah Howard suggested creating a PR packet with materials such as a river otter bookmark, stickers, and



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flyers to encourage participation. Emphasis was placed on tracking engagement and ensuring that organizations use the materials and tag event appropriately

- ii. The workgroup then began designing tiered participation levels for organizations.

- 1. Base Level

- a. Signing up for Raising Readers communications.
 - b. Receive a PR packet to share materials, take a photo distributing the materials to the community, content will be shared and tagged on social media.

- 2. Middle Tier

- a. Hosting or tagging events as Raising Readers activities.
 - i. Incorporate campaign materials and add simple questions to surveys to share with the campaign (such as do you have a library card, etc.).
 - b. Become involved directly with the campaign by joining the Early Grade Literacy workgroup.

- 3. Top Tier

- a. All of the above, plus bringing parents/community members into planning, sharing data more systematically, and/or contribute financial or in-kind support; in return they receive elevated recognition such as logo placement on the Facebook cover page, multiple social media shout-outs, and other acknowledgements as key partners.

- Event Planning

- i. Sarah Howard mentioned DBRL's Spring children's music concert as a potential collaboration for the launch event for the campaign.

- 4. Next Steps

- Enola will reach out to NET for Raising Readers to be the spotlight for April.
 - Joanne Nelson (BCCSD) will finalize the parental release form.
 - Enola will add to the shared document a list of schools (public/private) and add names for outreach. Additionally, she will place tiers and descriptions into the shared document and investigate pricing for campaign materials.
 - Workgroup members are asked to review the shared document and touch base with schools regarding data collection of the KOF.

- 5. Closing

No additional comments and questions were shared.

Next Workgroup Meeting: January 14, 2026 via Zoom or in-person at Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence Rd, Columbia MO)