



Matched Funding Offer for Annual Book Fairs



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The Annual Book Fairs model

- **Simple:** Students, beginning in 1st or 2nd grade, select 10-14 books among a selection of 400-600 to read over the summer for three consecutive years.
 - **Proven effective:** Demonstrated twice through randomized-controlled trials to increase end-of-grade reading test scores by 35-40% of a grade-level by 4th-5th grade.
 - **Cost effective:** \$300-\$400 total per student over three years
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Matching Funds Opportunity

- TDE is offering 1:1 matching funds for the program, up to \$1.95M, to deliver the program in CSI- and TSI-designated elementary schools.
 - PSUs may use PRC 0105 dollars or other public funds for their contribution.
 - **The PSUs' expected contribution for each participating school of average size (85 students per grade) is approximately \$7,500-\$9,500 per year over 4 years.**
 - Participating PSUs and schools will work with the program provider, Dr. Natalia Ward and team, to deliver in Spring 2027, 2028, and 2029, with a planning period starting in the 1st half of 2026.
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Implementation

- Annual Book Fairs are conducted in the school building.
 - Students choose the books in March or April and receive them on the last day of school.
 - Participating schools would work with a team led by Natalia Ward at East Tennessee State University to implement the program.
 - Dr. Ward helped lead the most recent implementation in 43 elementary schools in Tennessee.
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Selection of Schools

- Participating PSUs can identify CSI- and/or TSI-designated elementary schools within the PSU for potential participation.
 - To enable a rigorous evaluation, an independent study team will use a randomized lottery to select half of the schools for participation, while the other half continues with standard programming.
 - Aiming to recruit 100 schools total
 - **Seeking to demonstrate effectiveness *in North Carolina* that supports expansion of Book Fairs beyond the study period.**
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Next Steps

Follow-up webinar on December 10, 2025 at 10am

Questions? Please email:

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