



LOPL proposal for a PINES Profile

November 15, 2018

Background:

LOPL is committed to strengthening our partnerships with public schools. This goal is: (1) particularly important in recognition that two-thirds of Georgia's third-graders are not reading on grade level and; (2) supports the Get Georgia Reading by 2020 statewide campaign for all children in Georgia to become proficient readers by 3rd grade.

LOPL faces some exceptional challenges because nine (9) of our Chatham County elementary/middle schools have a three-year CCRPI average below 54 and were designated "chronically failing schools" by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

This fall, LOPL Outreach Services were contacted by the principal and 5th grade faculty at Heard Elementary seeking a partnership project to ensure every 5th grade student had a LOPL library card and an understanding of what the library offered to them.

In October, Dr. Eric Thomas, Georgia's Chief Turnaround Officer for the State Board of Education, was the keynote speaker at the LOPL Staff Development Day. His message of the compelling need to proactively reaching out and engaging the failing schools in our community deeply resonated with our staff.

Purpose:

LOPL will establish a pilot project to ensure that all 5th grade students at Heard Elementary have library cards. LOPL and the school administration/teachers will work closely together to have parents register their student for a library card, to have the library card and an orientation to the library delivered in the classroom jointly by library staff and classroom teachers, and to have library staff give special recognition to the new student patrons upon their visits to libraries.

The pilot project will provide the experience and data to determine the success and challenges of this library/school partnership. At a minimum, results should include more library cards held by students and students with a better understanding of library services. At best, a successful pilot project could be replicated in the deeply challenging environment of a failing school(s).

Name for our Profile:

Student Card

Rules:

1. Limited to 2 check-out items.
2. Parents/guardians are responsible for lost or damaged materials. LOPL will be responsible for lost or damaged materials and long-overdue fines not recovered by other libraries for their materials.
3. Library cards to expire every two years.
4. Verification of student ID by Heard Elementary faculty based on the application completed by parents or guardian.
5. Accounts will not be billed overdue fines.