



Big Brains for Little People™

OVER 100 FLORIDA MAYORS DECLARE EARLY LITERACY A PRIORITY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

In Florida, we spend less than \$3,000 a year to educate a child in pre-K, but more than \$50,000 a year to incarcerate a juvenile. This sobering statistic has gotten the attention of 101 Mayors across the state representing small and large communities and all political stripes. <https://tinyurl.com/yyegpchs>

These leaders have come to realize the economic imperative of providing literacy resources to children ages 0-3 years old when their brains are most receptive to learning. Waiting until they turn 4 to enter a PreK program means that many children are already in a remedial situation and many of them never catch up. This is particularly true of poor and minority families.

As this article notes, Mayor Ellen Glasser of Atlantic Beach is a former law enforcement officer and educator. Her experience taught her "that getting kids—and particularly those in at-risk environments—enrolled in school at 3 or 4 years old gives them a greater chance for later success. Keeping them interested in learning can actually keep them out of prison. Early learning is the key....It is good for kids and it is good for the community."

What would our homes, community, schools, literacy success, discipline issues, graduation and crime rates look like if on the very FIRST DAY of school, ALL of the children that walked into our classrooms, (especially our black, brown, underserved, ELL, Migrant, Title I, Native American, & Special Needs Students), could read and were ready to learn?

We should not rely solely on the state government to solve this problem. At Footsteps2Brilliance, we have created the transformative Model Innovation City where we engage in public/private partnerships that involve stakeholders from many entities to provide an affordable, easy to implement solution at the local level. Our most successful implementations are those that have been spearheaded by visionary mayors and superintendents in a partnership with the school district and the community at large.



**Have Mayors from cities in
your District signed on to
the letter?**

Osceola and Okeechobee
Counties have already begun
to close the school to prison
pipeline by partnering with
Footsteps2Brilliance and building
their community-wide initiative.

www.osceolareads.com

www.okeereads.com

**Will your district be the next to
receive one of our remaining
Social Justice Bilingual Literacy
In-Kind Service Grants?**

Contact me to learn how we can
work together to build strong
minds and school-ready children
for their future, and ours.

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