



Discover a World of Opportunity™

2016 MILL LEVY EARLY LITERACY

How does this investment support the district's strategic plan, the Denver Plan 2020?

Ensuring our students are reading at grade level by grade 3 is part of our overall goal to **Build a Foundation for Success** for all our students. We are building an essential foundation for our kids that prepares them for success throughout their years in DPS. And our focus on students living in poverty will help achieve our goal of **Closing Opportunity Gaps** for our kids.



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How will this investment help our kids?

Research shows children who are reading at grade level by grade 3 are four times more likely to graduate from high school. Funding from the 2016 mill levy will support efforts to ensure all DPS students reach this goal.

Is the need for help greater among students living in poverty?

Yes. Research shows a child's vocabulary is based on several factors, including how often parents talk with their kids. There is a strong relationship between household income and the number of words a child speaks by the time they are three years old. Kids in lower-income homes, for example, typically speak about 525 words by that age. But kids in higher-income homes typically have spoken twice as many words – 1,116 -- by the time they turn 3.

What will this funding look like in the classroom for our kids and schools?

The investment in early literacy will provide additional training for the teachers who work with our kids every day. The skills needed to

teach students to read are complex; teachers need training, coaching in the classroom, time to collaborate with their peers and access to high-quality resources.

In addition, this investment will support **extra interventions** for our students who are struggling readers and **early literacy specialists** at every elementary school. These specialists will receive targeted training and extra pay to build literacy expertise in their schools.

How are we targeting support to our kids and schools most likely to struggle?

Schools with larger numbers of students from low-income homes will receive extra help. For example, a school with more than 90% of students living in poverty will receive funding for six days of professional learning for every teacher in grades K-3. This school also would receive \$1,200 per teacher to support extra help for their most struggling readers. A school with fewer students in poverty – less than 40% -- will receive funding for two days of training learning for each K-3 teacher. All schools also will receive funding for two additional days of training for new teachers.