

LINC Commission Meeting

April 21, 2014



(Above) Over 160 students competed at the LINC Chess K-12 Tournament at North Kansas City High School. Students came from schools in KCMO and Warrensburg to compete in the tournament.



(Left) A student makes his next move at his first LINC Chess tournament. LINC Chess had an average of 141 students compete over the course of the three tournaments this year. The last chess tournament will be Sat., May 3 at Hickman Mills Jr. High School.



Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

Our Guiding Principles

1. **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
2. **PREVENTION:** Emphasize “front-end” services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than “back-end” crisis intervention.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
4. **INTENSITY:** Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
5. **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT:** Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
6. **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
7. **FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS:** Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
8. **COLLABORATION:** Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
9. **STRONG FAMILIES:** Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
10. **RESPECT AND DIGNITY:** Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
11. **INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
12. **CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
13. **CREATIVITY:** Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
14. **COMPASSION:** Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
15. **HONESTY:** Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.



Monday, April 21, 2014 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. March minutes (motion)
- III. Superintendent's Report
- IV. Recognition
 - a. Independence Mayor Don Reimal
- V. LINC Commission
 - a. Approve 2014-15 budget
 - b. Conflict of interest forms
- VI. LINC Summer Plans
 - a. Kansas City Public Schools
 - b. Other districts
 - c. Summer Reading
- VII. Other Reports
- VIII. Adjournment

The LINC Commission meeting may conclude early so individuals can attend the KCPT community forum about the Kansas City Public School District, school accreditation and the Missouri transfer law. The forum starts at 6:30 pm at the Kansas City Public Library Plaza Branch. The public is welcome.



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – MARCH 17, 2014

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Chairman **Landon Rowland** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Jack Craft
Aaron Deacon
Herb Freeman
SuEllen Fried
Anita Gorman
Bart Hakan

Rosemary Lowe
Sandy Mayer
Mary Kay McPhee
Richard Morris
Marge Peltier
David Rock
David Ross
Bailus Tate

Rowland made the following announcements:

- The Kansas City Star published an op-ed co-written by **Anita Gorman** and **James B. Nutter Sr.**. Gorman reported on legislation in the Missouri General Assembly to take away power from the citizen-led Conservation Commission and put it in the hands of state legislators.
- LINC's efforts to support the Missouri Division of Youth Services are highlighted in a video produced for a recent visit to LINC by the Council for State Government Justice Center. The video was shown.
- The Missouri Family and Community Trust (FACT) has been selected to work on the annual KidsCount initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. LINC will organize area partners in support of FACT's efforts.
- **Mark Schroer** is the new Construction Manager at Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity.

A motion to approve the Jan. 27, 2014, LINC Commission meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

Superintendents' Report

- **John Ruddy** (Assistant Superintendent, Fort Osage School District) reported the district is partnering with LINC to provide summer camps. Next school year students in grades 7-9 will receive Chromebooks; the district will need to find a way to support increased data usage as a result.
- **John Tramel** (Director of Family Services, Independence School District) reported the district is analyzing February student acuity tests to determine what supports are needed to increase academic performance. This weekend the district will hold a gala benefiting the Independence School District Foundation's Caring for Kids Fund.
- **Terry Ward** (School Board Member, North Kansas City School District) reported the district's data connection is nearing capacity and will need to be enlarged in order to support plans to provide devices for middle-schoolers. The district is asking voters to consider a \$20 million bond and a 26-cent operating levy issue in April.
- **Jerry Kitzi** (Director of Early Learning, Kansas City Public Schools) reported LINC and KCPS are partnering to provide reading programming at Before & After Summer School and Summer Camp programs this summer. Last week LINC staff and KCPS staff attended a training on reading curriculum to be used in the programs; a video of the training was shown. The training was held at Richardson Elementary School, which will be reopened as the

district's second early learning center.

Santa Fe Trail Elementary School principal **Janet Gibbs** announced LINC Site Coordinator **Calvin Wainright** has been named the Classified Employee of the Year in the Independence School District. The award was given for his contributions to the families and people in the community of the district. Discussion followed.

LINC President **Gayle A. Hobbs** reported **Marge Randle** has been promoted to the Mo. Family Support Division executive team. She will handle FSD's day-to-day issues so that Division Director **Alyson Campbell** can focus on reorganization and system implementation issues. Randle reported **Stephanie Fowler** will serve as the Kansas City Regional Administrator. LINC will continue to support FSD as it finds locations for resource centers to serve FSD clients. Discussion followed.

LINCWorks Supervisor **Andrea O'Neal** reported on the Missouri Work Assistance program's progress in placing clients into work activities; site visits with other MWA contractors to share best practices; efforts to create community volunteer opportunities for clients; and a new office to be opened at the Community Assistance Council in south Kansas City. O'Neal also reported LINCWorks has received \$150,000 as an incentive bonus. She announced that **Aaron Bond** has been promoted to Program Supervisor.

Terry Ward reported that during LINC's 20 years' efforts in welfare-to-work, the area caseload has decreased from 15,000 to 3,600; since 2011 LINC has surpassed the state work participation rate; the goal of achieving 50% work participation may not be attainable without system changes requiring legislative approval.

Aaron Deacon introduced **Rachel Hack Merlo**, who reported on Google's plans for the second round of registering residents for the gigabit internet service. Included in the second round are new areas of Kansas City, Mo., as well as neighborhoods that didn't register in the first round. Merlo also reported on efforts such as a mobile digital literacy learning lab funded by the Digital Inclusion Fund administered by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

Mary Olive Thompson reported on the Kansas City Public Library's partnership with LINC to organize the Jackson County Spelling Bee. The two finalists went 75 rounds before a winner was declared, garnering attention in national media.

Anthony Escobar of Boy Scouts of America reported the Boy Scouts will expand its partnership offering scouting activities at LINC summer programs this year. A video slideshow featuring scouting activities from last year was shown.

Sharon Cheers announced that several municipalities and school districts will hold elections on April 8 and encouraged people to vote.

The meeting was adjourned.

Reimal remains passionate about northwest Independence

By BRIAN BURNES
The Kansas City Star

Don Reimal thinks long-term.

What will happen April 21 is an example.

That will be Reimal's last day as Independence mayor, the same day the winner of Tuesday's election is sworn in.

The ceremony will end Reimal's eight years as mayor, as well as 20 years of public service. Voters first elected him to represent the First District — northwest Independence — on the City Council in 1994.

Reimal, 72, did not seek a third term.

"It's time," he said.

But that's not the only change for him and his wife, Jo.

They've sold the home on North Delaware Avenue where they have lived for some 35 years and reared two daughters.

But they are not leaving northwest Independence, where Reimal grew up, attending Van Horn High School.

Instead, they are moving within the First District to the 1500 block of South Ash Avenue, to the early 20th century home that Jo Reimal grew up in.

If it's a sentimental decision, it's also a financial one.

One of his daughters recently moved out of the home, Reimal said, and his family would take a significant financial hit in capital gains taxes if they sold it.

So Reimal has been renovating the house. He and his wife expect to move in soon.



They have made a financial decision, but so have more young families who have bought properties in northwest Independence and invested in the area's future. The revitalization of northwest Independence has been a constant theme for Reimal, and he has supported several city policy decisions that he believes have strengthened the district.

"I'm putting my money where my mouth is," he said.

He and his wife also will be participating in the 353 tax abatement program that Reimal has championed for many years. The program, available in many northwest Independence



neighborhoods, grants tax abatement to property owners who upgrade their properties to certain standards and then maintain them.

Reimal long has credited the program for revitalizing the sometimes distressed residential districts of northwest Independence, including those around the Truman Home at North Delaware Avenue and Truman Road.

"We will be treated like everybody else," said Reimal.

"We will have to spend a certain amount of money to qualify and then be re-inspected every five years. We are John Q. Public in this."

Reimal's tenure was relatively peaceful politically.

Former Mayor Barbara Potts said she appreciated how City Council meetings have not included much obvious animosity. Reimal more than once has commented upon the importance of decorum at meetings and respect among council members.

“Things have seemed to run smoothly with his leadership,” said Potts. “Not everybody is going to think alike but there is a way of discussing different points of view without becoming irritable,” she said.

One achievement that pleases Reimal was the voter-approved transfer of schools in northwest Independence and Sugar Creek to the Independence School District. Until 2007, they were in the Kansas City school district.

Area residents long had lost confidence in the Kansas City district, Reimal said.

“We were passing around petitions 40 years ago,” he said. “Even back then the district had begun to fail and kids were not getting good educations.”

But the years passed and the northwest end continued to deteriorate as longtime employers shut down and families bought homes elsewhere and sent their children to other schools.

While the switch was led by Reimal and several others, chiefly former State Sen. Victor Callahan, many grassroots leaders made a crucial difference, Reimal said.

“There was a meeting in my office with the school district and many pastors from around the area,” he said.

Those pastors, Reimal said, convinced residents that consolidation could work.

“Today Korte (Elementary) is bursting at the seams,” he said.

He’s also pleased to see the rebirth of Independence Regional Health Center.

The protests were loud and long in 2007 when HCA Midwest opened Centerpoint Medical Center in southeast Independence and then, on the same day, shut down two older Independence hospitals.

Those were the Medical Center of Independence and Independence Regional.

The latter had served as an economic and emotional anchor of northwest Independence since 1909. Many residents were upset that they would be without easy access to health care.

But today the old hospital is home to the Ennovation Center, a business incubator. Entrepreneurs operate approximately 30 businesses, many of them food-related.

Meanwhile, Truman Medical Center-Lakewood and Swope Health Services are planning new health facilities in northwest Independence, Reimal added.

Reimal remains frustrated, though, that Crackerneck Creek retail district still needs tenants.

In 2004 city officials approved a tax increment financing district for the new center anchored by a Bass Pro Shops store.

That opened in 2008, but the many new restaurants and stores that were expected never showed up.

Sales tax revenue from those businesses was supposed to help pay off the general-obligation bonds used to build the center. Now the city has spent millions meeting those obligations.

“That project was vetted through the city, the county and two state administrations,” he said last week. “Everyone agreed that it was a good project, and nobody foresaw that the economy would be going down the tubes.”

Reimal believes the Stoney Creek Inn, expected to open later this year, will attract new tenants to the district.

“I have no doubt in my mind,” he said, adding “but it’s taken longer than we wanted.”

But, then again, Reimal thinks long-term.

Reimal, for years a contractor and carpenter, has done much of the renovation work on the South Ash Avenue house himself.

That includes the oak trim in the windowsills.

Some 47 years ago, Reimal and his young family were living in a three-story farmhouse not far from the home on South Ash.

About 35 years ago, well before he was elected to the City Council, the Reimal family sold the house to the city, which wanted to clear the lot to expand a fire station.

As part of the deal, he saved many antique items, among them light fixtures, wood trim, even a staircase.

He reused a lot of that material — the staircase went into his North Delaware residence — and stored much of the wood trim for 35 years.

“I knew I couldn’t throw it away,” he said.

“I figured it had to be mature oak, anywhere from 50 to 75 years old, maybe a little older.

“And that house had been there for about 100 years. So figuring the wood is about 175 years old, and then adding the 35 years I had it in storage, that means that oak is possibly 200 years old.”

There’s a moral in there somewhere.

“Waste not, want not,” Reimal said.

To reach Brian Burnes, call 816-234-4120 or send email to bburnes@kcstar.com

Thursday, Apr 17, 2014

Most neighborhoods in south Kansas City, Grandview and Raytown will get Google Fiber

The Kansas City Star

Google has decided to sell its TV subscriptions and ultrafast broadband connections in south Kansas City, Grandview and Raytown in all but two neighborhoods.

The company will sell the video and Internet connections in 73 neighborhoods in the southern third of the city. Google Fiber reported Tuesday that enough residents in those areas agreed to purchase some level of service to meet thresholds set by the company.

Google's so-called rally for the area closed at midnight Monday. The firm aims to keep down construction costs by selling hookups only in areas where demand justifies the company's investment. So it sets qualification levels in each neighborhood — from 5 percent

to 25 percent of households, depending on the difficulty of stringing fiber optic cables through what Google calls "fiberhoods." Potential customers must put down \$10 deposits to count toward their neighborhood qualification total.

Numbers revealed Tuesday showed Google had greater success recruiting customers this spring than it did in its first run of rallies. In early fall 2012, the company said too few customers signed up in about 15 percent of neighborhoods — mostly poorer areas.

Both of the neighborhoods that missed Google's most recent cut are in Raytown. One neighborhood is bordered roughly by Raytown Road, 59th Street, Blue Ridge Cutoff and 52nd Terrace. The second area is broadly east of Blue Ridge Cutoff, south of 83rd Street, west of Elm Avenue and north of 87th Street.



Meanwhile, households in Kansas City, North — mostly in Platte County — have until May 15 to meet Google’s deadlines. Thirteen neighborhoods there remain short of Google’s sign-up goal. Another area north of the Missouri River and mostly in Clay County has until June 19 to sign up. Twenty-six neighborhoods there have yet to reach Google’s requirements.

Google has marketed its drive for customers as a now-or-never chance to have the company hook fiber optic lines to homes, implying that households that pass now might not get another chance to buy Internet connections or TV subscriptions from the company.

But the central Kansas City areas that fell short of Google’s sign-up rate two years ago have been given a second chance. They have until June 19 to sign up in high enough numbers to satisfy Google.

Google has said that installations for qualifying neighborhoods will be completed by the end of this year.

The company has not said when it will begin work in other suburbs. It still lacks contracts to sell service in Overland Park and Independence.

First Book at a Glance

- First Book provides new books to children in need, tackling a critical barrier to literacy development – access to books and educational materials.
- First Book has distributed more than 80 million books to schools and community organizations serving children from low-income families in thousands of communities.
- First Book currently reaches more than 25,000 registered organizations and schools that serve children in need from birth to age 18.
- To obtain books and resources, programs must complete a simple online registration [LINK: <http://register.firstbook.org>] to verify their eligibility. In addition to programs that serve children from low-income families, First Book also provides new books and educational materials to programs serving children of active military members, and organizations for children with serious medical conditions.
- National in scope, but local in impact, First Book relies on a network of dedicated volunteer groups in hundreds of communities throughout the U.S. that provide book grants to local programs and raise awareness of literacy issues.
- First Book is a partnership-based organization – we work with corporations, nonprofit groups and publishers to achieve our mission.
- Kyle Zimmer co-founded First Book in 1992, and she continues to lead the organization.



How First Book Distributes Books

First Book has pioneered innovative distribution channels for making new books available, affordable and accessible to eligible programs and schools.

The First Book Marketplace

- The First Book Marketplace is an award-winning e-commerce site that makes new books available at prices 50%-90% below retail **only** to organizations serving children in need.
- Through the Marketplace, educators are able to purchase high-quality books and educational resources at low cost and enrich the learning experience for the children they serve – from birth through high school.
- To be eligible to purchase through the Marketplace, an organization must:
 - Serve children where at least 50% are from low-income households (or be a Title I or Title I eligible school);
 - Not discriminate against individuals based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion or physical or mental ability.

The First Book National Book Bank

- The First Book National Book Bank is the only national clearinghouse for large-scale donations of children's books from publishers to programs serving children in need.
- Every year the National Book Bank distributes millions of books for free from more than 90 leading children's book publishers, with support from warehousing partners and volunteer networks.
- To be eligible to obtain books through the FBNBB, an organization must:
 - Serve children where at least 80% are from low-income households (or be a Title I or Title I eligible school);
 - Not discriminate against individuals based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion or physical or mental ability.

Our Financial Efficiency

First Book's business model is designed for maximum efficiency. Non-programmatic costs total less than 3% of revenue – which means that 97% of revenue supports First Book's mission and programs.

First Book Statistics: Literacy in America



“Access to books and educational material is the single biggest barrier to literacy development in the United States and beyond. If we can solve the problem of access, we will be well on the road to realizing educational parity – a goal which has eluded this country for generations.”

-- Susan B. Neuman, Ph.D. University of Michigan, Ctr. for Improvement of Early Reading Achievement

The Importance of Access to Books

- Access to books is key to reading skills. Studies confirm that the number of books in the home directly predicts reading achievement. Children who grew up with books in their homes reached a higher level of education than those who did not. (*Family Scholarly Culture and Educational Success*)
- One study found that in middle income neighborhoods the ratio is 13 books per child; in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is one book for every 300 children. (Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. *Handbook of Early Literacy Research, Volume 2*. New York, NY: 2006).
- Price is the #1 barrier to book ownership. Programs have limited funds and 94% of teachers use their own money to provide books & resources for their students.

The Educational Challenges Faced by Children in Need

- Vocabulary development by age 3 has been found to predict reading achievement... By age 3, children from wealthier families have typically heard 30 million more words than children from low-income families. (*AEC, 2010*)
- Children from low-income families lack early interactions that lead to language development including being read to and access to books in the home. New data show that children from low-income families have one-fourth the vocabulary of children from wealthier homes. (*NPR, 2011*).
- By the time children from low-income families enter kindergarten, they are 12-14 months below national norms in language & pre-reading skills. (*AEC, 2010*)
- Reading scores have not improved in decades. 83% of low-income 4th graders score at “Below Proficient” levels vs. 55% of middle-income student cohorts. (*Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count 2010*)

High School Students and the Drop-out Rate

- Every school day, seven thousand students become dropouts. Annually, that adds up to 1.2 million students who will not graduate high school with their peers as scheduled. (*Alliance for Excellent Education*)
- The average annual income for a high school dropout in 2004 was \$16,485, compared to \$26,156 for a high school graduate, a difference of \$9,671 (*U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2005*).
- “Every student who doesn’t complete high school costs our society \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, productivity.” (*Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count 2010*)
- 78% of juvenile crime is committed by high school dropouts. (*National Children's Reading Foundation*)

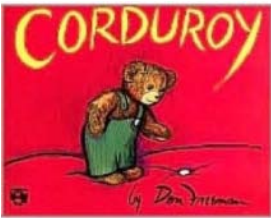
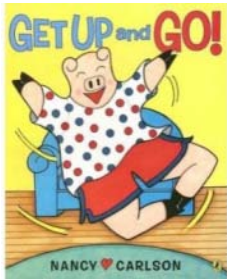
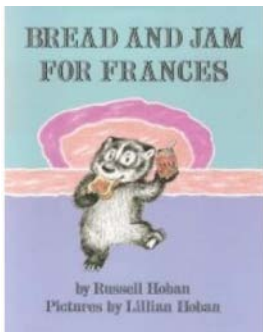
First Book 2014 – LINC Book Selections

LINC will distribute 25,000 books to students in the **Center, Fort Osage, Grandview, Hickman Mills, Independence, Kansas City, and North Kansas City** school districts at the end of this school year.

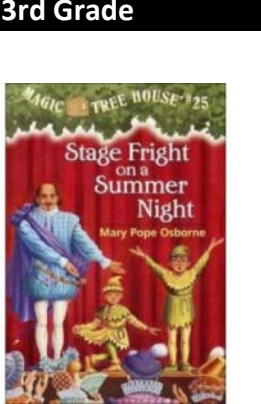
The goal is to provide every elementary school student with their own personal book to take home.

The high-quality books are provided at low cost by **First Book**, www.firstbook.org

This will be the third year that LINC has organized a major book distribution event.

Kindergarten	
	<p>CORDUROY By: Don Freeman</p> <p>Corduroy is one of the best-loved bears in children’s books. The story of how he finally finds a home is an irresistible favorite.</p>
	<p>GET UP AND GO! By: Nancy Carlson</p> <p>We all come in different shapes and sizes, and it doesn't matter if you are tall, short, skinny, or round. Your body is your own, and you need to take care of it. Whether it's a New Year's resolution or simply time for a change, this book is the perfect catalyst to get readers moving. Vibrant, fun-filled illustrations and an encouraging text explain the many great reasons to exercise, from making new friends to going new places, or just because it's good for your body. Nancy Carlson's gleeful, kid-friendly story is sure to make readers young and old get up and exercise!</p>
1st Grade	
	<p>BREAD AND JAM FOR FRANCES By: Russell and Lillian Hoban</p> <p>Frances, one of children's best-loved characters for over 30 years, now springs to life even more in <i>Bread and Jam for Frances</i>, beautifully re-illustrated in sparkling full color by Lillian Hoban. In this memorable story, Frances decides that bread and jam are all she wants to eat, and her understanding parents grant her wish at breakfast, lunch, dinner, and even snacktime. Can there ever be too much bread and jam?</p>

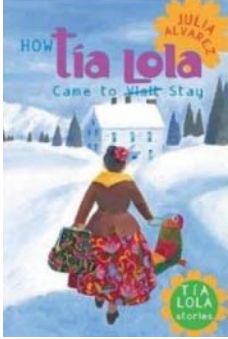
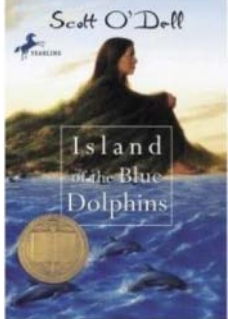
First Book 2014 – LINC Book Selections

2nd Grade	
 <p>The cover of the book 'Officer Buckle and Gloria' features a police officer in a blue uniform and a dog named Gloria. The title is written in a stylized, colorful font. The author's name, Peggy Rathmann, is at the bottom.</p>	<p>OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA (FIRST BOOK MARKETPLACE PAPERBACK SPECIAL EDITION) By: Peggy Rathmann</p> <p>Officer Buckle knows more about safety than anyone else in Napville, but his dull presentations put his audiences to sleep. Enter Gloria, Napville's new police dog. Gloria knows just how to liven up the safety speeches - as long as Officer Buckle's back is turned! Full color.</p>
 <p>The cover of 'Something Beautiful' shows a young girl with braids and a headband, smiling. The title is in a simple, blue font. The authors' names, Sharon Dennis Wyeth and Chris K. Soentpiet, are at the top.</p>	<p>SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL By: Sharon Dennis Wyeth and Chris K. Soentpiet</p> <p>Everyday a young girl is disheartened by the things in her neighborhood: the trash on the streets, the graffiti on the walls, and the homeless woman that sleeps in a box. When she learns the word "beautiful" at school, she sets out to find "something beautiful" in her surroundings. In her search, this little girl learns to see beyond the barren ugliness of her environment to find beauty in her friendships, her family, and herself.</p>
 <p>The cover of 'Tomás Rivera' shows a man and a young boy looking at each other. The title is in a red font. It is part of the 'Green Light Readers' series, Level 2. The author's name, Jane Medina, is at the bottom.</p>	<p>TOMÁS RIVERA (GREEN LIGHT READERS LEVEL 2) By: Jane Medina</p> <p>Tomás Rivera wants to tell stories, just like his grandpa. But first he needs to visit a very special place where he can get lots of good ideas--the library. The text is based on a true story.</p>
3rd Grade	
 <p>The cover of 'Magic Tree House 25: Stage Fright on a Summer Night' shows a man in a blue suit and a woman in a yellow dress on a stage. The title is in a red font. The author's name, Mary Pope Osborne, is at the bottom.</p>	<p>MAGIC TREE HOUSE 25: STAGE FRIGHT ON A SUMMER NIGHT By: Mary Pope Osborne</p> <p>Jack and Annie are ready for their next fantasy adventure in the bestselling middle-grade series—the Magic Tree House!</p> <p>The show must go on!</p> <p>That's what Jack and Annie learn when the Magic Tree House whisks them back to Elizabethan England. There they meet William Shakespeare himself—one of the greatest writers of all time! But Mr. Shakespeare's having a hard time with some of the actors in his latest show. Are Jack and Annie ready to make a big entrance? Or will it be curtains for Shakespeare?</p>

First Book 2014 – LINC Book Selections

4th Grade	
<p>The cover of 'Quarterback Scramble' features two football players in orange and white uniforms. One player is in the foreground, looking towards the viewer, while another is behind him. The title 'QUARTERBACK SCRAMBLE' is written in large, bold, yellow and orange letters at the top. At the bottom, it says 'Sports Illustrated Grand Slam Kids'.</p>	<p>QUARTERBACK SCRAMBLE (SPORTS ILLUSTRATED KIDS GRAPHIC NOVELS) By: Brandon Terrell</p> <p>As the backup quarterback for the Hawks, Ben Paulson is happy to ride the bench and hang out with his teammates on the sidelines. But everything changes when the Hawks' star quarterback, Wes Blake, gets suspended for pulling poor grades in math. With Ben at the helm, the offense starts to stall, and his teammates place the blame squarely on his shoulders. Soon after, a possible solution to Ben's passing problems reveals itself--but he's not so sure it's the right answer.</p>
<p>The cover of 'Squish #3: The Power of the Parasite' shows a green, blob-like character with a face and a small green helmet. The character has several tentacles extending from its head. The title 'squish' is in a green, bubbly font at the top, with 'THE POWER OF THE PARASITE' below it. The number 'no. 3' is in a small circle. At the bottom, it says 'JENNIFER L. HOLM & MATTHEW HOLM'.</p>	<p>SQUISH #3: THE POWER OF THE PARASITE By: Jennifer L. Holm</p> <p>School's out! Everyone's favorite amoeba is headed to summer camp! But instead of SUPER AWESOME FUN, Squish's summer is turning out to be SUPER AWESOME TERRIFYING! For one thing, Squish can't swim. And to make matters worse, his new camp friend is a Hydra (scientific fact: A hydra's tentacles can paralyze you!). Will Squish sink or will he swim this summer? (And what's up with Pod and black holes anyways??) Find out the answers to these questions and more in the super spectacular adventure, Squish #3: The Power of the Parasite. Summer reading has never been so slimey!</p>
5th Grade	
<p>The cover of 'LOCOMOTION' by Jacqueline Woodson features a black and white illustration of several birds in flight against a cloudy sky. A hand is visible at the bottom left, reaching up. The author's name 'JACQUELINE WOODSON' is prominently displayed in large white letters. The title 'LOCOMOTION' is at the bottom. There is a circular seal on the left side that says 'NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST'.</p>	<p>LOCOMOTION By: Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p>When Lonnie Collins Motion was seven years old, his life changed forever. Now Lonnie is eleven and his life is about to change again. His teacher, Ms. Marcus, is showing him ways to put his jumbled feelings on paper. And suddenly, Lonnie has a whole new way to tell the world about his life, his friends, his little sister, Lili, and even his foster mom, Miss Edna, who started out crabby but isn't so bad after all. Award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical voice captures Lonnie's thoughtful perspectives of the world and his determination to one day put a family together again.</p>
<p>The cover of 'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman features a dark, atmospheric illustration of a graveyard at night. A large, glowing yellow circle, resembling a full moon or a lantern, is in the upper right. The author's name 'NEIL GAIMAN' is at the top in large yellow letters. The title 'The Graveyard Book' is at the bottom in a stylized font. A gold seal is visible on the right side.</p>	<p>THE GRAVEYARD BOOK By: Neil Gaiman</p> <p>In this ingenious and captivating reimagining of Rudyard Kipling's classic adventure The Jungle Book, Neil Gaiman tells the unforgettable story of Nobody Owens, a living, breathing boy whose home is a graveyard, raised by a guardian who belongs neither to the mortal world nor the realm of the dead. Among the mausoleums and headstones of his home, Bod experiences things most mortals can barely imagine. But real, flesh-and-blood danger waits just outside the cemetery walls: the man who murdered the infant Bod's family will not rest until he finds Nobody Owens and finishes the job he began many years ago.</p>

First Book 2014 – LINC Book Selections

6th Grade	
	<p>HOW TIA LOLA CAME TO (VISIT) STAY By: Julia Alvarez</p> <p>A delightfully entertaining story of family and culture from acclaimed author Julia Alvarez.</p> <p>Moving to Vermont after his parents split, Miguel has plenty to worry about! Tía Lola, his quirky, carismática, and maybe magical aunt makes his life even more unpredictable when she arrives from the Dominican Republic to help out his Mami. Like her stories for adults, Julia Alvarez's first middle-grade book sparkles with magic as it illuminates a child's experiences living in two cultures.</p>
	<p>ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS By: Scott O'Dell</p> <p>"Winner of the Newbery Medal in 1961, this story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an island off the coast of California, still fascinates young readers. Her survival story--fighting the wild dogs and loneliness, hunting for food, and hoping to be rescued--is spellbinding." -- <i>Children's Literature</i></p>

KCMO SCHOOLS BY THE NUMBERS

6th
 in the metro
 from #1 in enrollment

DECLINING ENROLLMENT



15,487 enrolled in 2014

THE RISE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

23 CHARTER SCHOOLS OPERATING IN KCMO SCHOOL DISTRICT

9,577 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KC CHARTER SCHOOLS

- 17,615 Lee's Summit
- 21,599 Kansas City, Kan.
- 22,215 Blue Valley
- 27,418 Shawnee Mission
- 28,744 Olathe



STUDENT POPULATION

61.1% BLACK
 26.3% HISPANIC
 9.3% WHITE
 3% ASIAN

87.7% FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

49.5% MISSOURI AVERAGE

15

SCHOOL DISTRICTS INSIDE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI CITY BOUNDARIES

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

32 SCHOOLS CLOSED SINCE 2009

52 AVERAGE BUILDING AGE

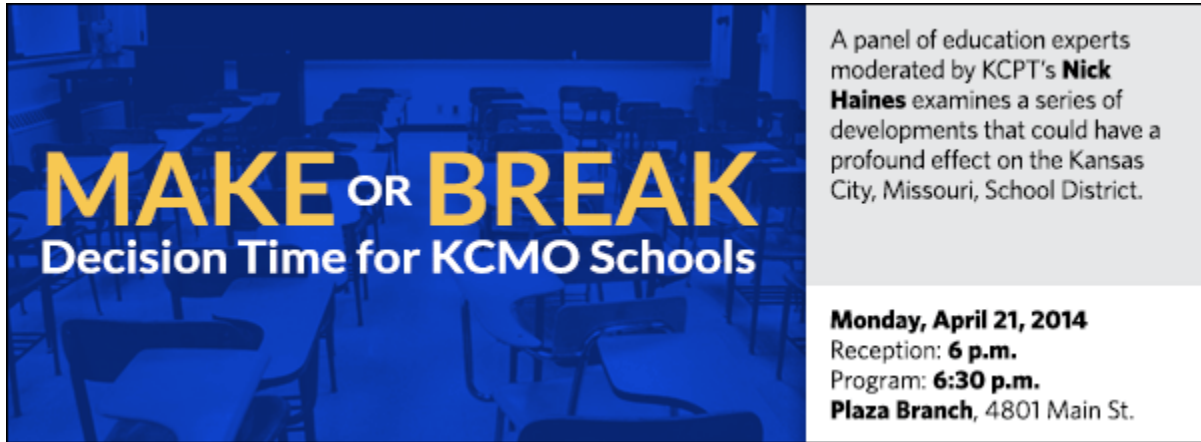
OLDEST: 103 YEARS
 WAMES ELEMENTARY 5850 SCARLETT



8/2014

DECISION TIME: TEST SCORES RELEASED

Information compiled by KCPT | April, 2014



MAKE OR BREAK
Decision Time for KCMO Schools

A panel of education experts moderated by KCPT's **Nick Haines** examines a series of developments that could have a profound effect on the Kansas City, Missouri, School District.

Monday, April 21, 2014
Reception: **6 p.m.**
Program: **6:30 p.m.**
Plaza Branch, 4801 Main St.

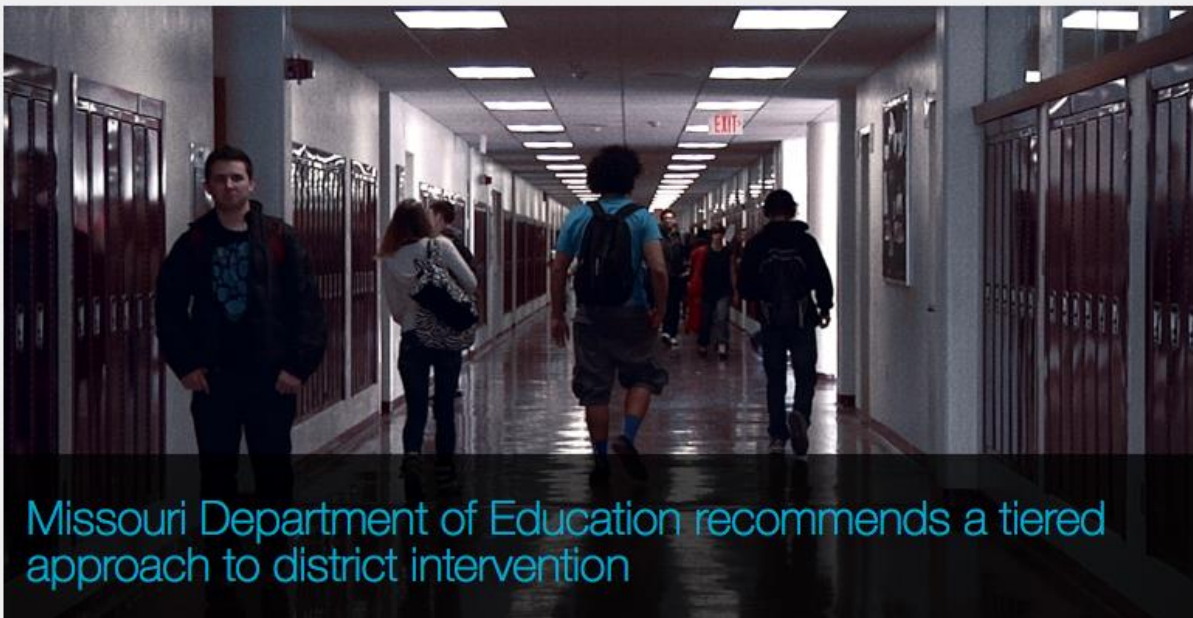
Make or Break: Decision Time for KCMO Schools

No Comments Yet - Be The First!

After months of contentious debate, the Missouri State Board of Education has finalized a plan to address the state's unaccredited school districts. Squarely in its sights is the Kansas City, Missouri School District, which has been operating without state accreditation since 2012. Coupled with a school transfer law set to go into effect this summer, the impact on the beleaguered Kansas City district could be immense. But just as enormous is the ripple effect these two events could have on neighboring districts throughout the metro. The implications of these developments are explored by KCPT-TV's Nick Haines and a panel of experts including Chris Nicastro, Missouri Education Commissioner; Stephen Green, Superintendent of the Kansas City Public Schools; Senator David Pearce, Chair of Missouri Senate Education Committee; John Martin, Missouri State Board of Education; and Munro Richardson, education consultant.

Will families living in Waldo or Brookside now be able send their kids to Lee's Summit schools at the Kansas City, Missouri, School District's expense? Will charter schools take a hit as parents get the option to send their kids to another school district in a neighboring county? Or even, according to the latest Missouri Senate bill, apply their public tuition towards a private school education?

Co-sponsored by KCPT.





2014 Summer Programs

District	Location	Before & After Summer School	All Day Summer Camp
Center	Boone Elem.	X	
Fort Osage	TBD (one location)		X
Grandview	Butcher-Greene Elem.	X	
Hickman Mills	Burke Elem.	X	X
	Ingels Elem.	X	
	Santa Fe Elem.		
	Symington Elem.		
Kansas City, Mo.	Gladstone Elem.	X	
	Paige Elem.		
	ACCPA		X
	Attucks Elem.		
	Border Star Montessori		
	Garfield Elem.		
	Holliday Montessori		
	Melcher Elem.		
	Pitcher Elem.		
Trailwoods Elem.			
North Kansas City	Topping Elem.	X	X
Charter	Tolbert Academy	X	

