

LINC Commission Meeting

September 21, 2015



U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited Woodland Early Learning Center in the Kansas City Public Schools to kick off a Back-To-School Bus Tour.

(Right) Duncan participates in an activity with a student at Woodland.



LINC
Local Investment Commission

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, Sept. 21, 2015 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. July minutes (motion)
- III. Superintendents' Reports
- IV. LINC Summer School Outcomes
- V. Missouri Child Care Financing
 - a. Amy Blouin – Missouri Budget Project
- VI. LINC Data System Update
- VII. Update Reports
 - a. Educational Policy Fellowship Program
 - b. It's on Me – Hickman Mills
 - c. First Book Kansas City distribution
 - d. Healthy KC – Tobacco 21 (Scott Lakin)
 - e. Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer
- VIII. Adjournment



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – JULY 20, 2015

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Co-chair **Jack Craft** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Aaron Deacon
Steve Dunn
Herb Freeman
SuEllen Fried
Tom Gerke
Anita Gorman
Bart Hakan

Richard Hibschan
Rosemary Lowe
Mary Kay McPhee
Richard Morris
Landon Rowland
David Ross
Bailus Tate

A motion to approve the June 15, 2015, LINC Commission meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

Superintendents' Report

- **John Ruddy** (Asst. Supt., Fort Osage School District) reported on the LINC summer camp operating at Blue Hills Elementary serving 350 children – a material increase in enrollment over previous years.
- **Ralph Teran** (Supt. Grandview School District) reported the district had a good program over the summer and LINC served them well as a partner; enrollment was up again this year.
- **Gayden Carruth** (Executive Director, Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City) reported there are currently four interim superintendents and five new superintendents in the 29 regional districts. She further reported the Governor vetoed HB 42; now we need to see what the General Assembly does.
- **Bob Bartman** (Director, Education Policy Fellowship Program) reported EPFP has completed recruitment; they have 18 participants in the program. A reception will be held in September at Drumm Farm, and LINC Commissioners are welcome.
- **Dennis Carpenter** (Superintendent, Hickman Mills School District) reported the district is working at a feverish pitch to get ready for the new school year; there is great excitement about the new program at Burke Elementary; the district is working on a strategy to change their culture. The district has undergone a facilities assessment and is working with the community to develop a plan to address serious deferred maintenance issues. He reported on Project Shine at the Ruskin High School next weekend and the excitement for school starting on August 12.
- **Al Tunis** (Interim Supt., Kansas City Public Schools) reported on a successful summer school and thanked LINC for their partnership. He reported the mantra of the school district is “Stay the Course,” which signifies their desire to continue the progress of the District.
- **Terry Ward** (Board Member, North Kansas City School District) reported the district had a successful summer school, and the schools participating in year-round school will soon finish their first 31 days. Enrollment is increasing, with only two unused classrooms

of 876. Ward spoke positively of the Lean Lab put on by Kauffman this summer and the benefit it was to both teachers and administrators.

- **Kevin Foster** (Executive Director, Genesis Promise Academy) reported on activities of the charter school, including 75% of the school's students participated in Summer School. He reported much excitement about preparing for the first day of school and a staff person participating in the EPFP.

Craft introduced **Shannon Burke-Kranzburg** of First Book, who reported on the relationship LINC has with First Book and the opportunity, coming in September, to distribute books.

Craft called upon **Oscar Tshibanda** of Tshibanda and Associates, who presented a demonstration of the Apricot data system as it has been developed for the Independence School District.

LINC Deputy Director-Community Engagement **Brent Schondelmeyer** reported on the partnership between LINC and Kansas City Public Schools to provide a summer school program for district students.

Craft called upon **Dennis Carpenter** to introduce a video of a senior at Hickman Mills High School.

Turn the Page KC Executive Director **Mike English** reported on the Celebration of Summer Reading event held recently at the Sprint Center. A video on this topic was shown.

LINC President **Gayle Hobbs** reported on the opening of a LINCWorks office in Woodland Early Learning Community School to serve TANF clients in the KCPS neighborhood. **Aaron Bond** spoke of the experience.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kansas City Star – Sept. 15

In visit to KC school, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stresses early learning

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan walked into a classroom at the Woodland Early Learning Community School in Kansas City on Monday morning and stretched out on a blue, red and yellow alphabet rug to play with magnetic building tiles and 3-year-old Cristian Rodriguez.

Then he walked over to the writing center in teacher Barbara Fulbright’s preschool class to watch 5-year-old Landen Myers draw a squiggly-lined picture.

Duncan visited the city public school as the first stop on his annual 10-city Back to School bus tour. This year’s tour, under the theme “Ready for Success,” was set to highlight the importance of including children with disabilities in high-quality early learning programs and to push the importance of community focus on early childhood education.



Al Tunis (left), interim superintendent to Kansas City Public Schools, talks with U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan on Monday, Sept. 14, 2015, in the halls of the Woodland Early Learning Center, 711 Woodland Ave. in Kansas City. The school is the first of 11 innovative schools Duncan and other top education officials are visiting across the country this month as part of the sixth-annual “Ready for Success” bus tour. ALLISON LONG along@kcstar.com

He said that in Missouri about 80 percent of preschool children don't have access to quality care. About 6,000 preschool-age children live within Kansas City district boundaries, but fewer than 1,700 are being served in its schools.

In a brief speech, to a room full of Kansas City community and education leaders, Duncan stressed that investing in early childhood learning is the nation's best course of action for success well into the future.

Last fall the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce made kindergarten readiness one of its Big Five initiatives. "It became clear that we needed to focus attention on kindergarten readiness, an appalling number of our children can't read at grade level by third grade," said Jim Heeter, chamber president.

When Woodland Early Learning Community School opened two years ago, it was one of two early childhood sites in the city to receive a portion of \$10 million in grants from the state Community Development Block Grant program and the Neighborhood Assistance Program to expand early childhood education. Woodland got \$480,000. That money was used to renovate the school, which now not only includes space for about 300 3- and 4-year-old children, but also houses about a dozen community and social service agencies.

The community school provides a one-stop shop for parents living in the urban core with young children and needing help with a variety of social service issues.

That Duncan chose Kansas City and the Woodland community school to visit "says that we are focused on the big issue for this community, perhaps the nation," said Brent Stewart, president of the United Way of Greater Kansas City. The organization partners with local districts to open Success by 6 Resource Centers — free toy and resource lending libraries in schools filled with educational toys and books for children birth to age 8.

Mayor Sly James, whose administration in 2011 launched Turn the Page KC, a reading initiative aimed at having all children reading at grade level by third grade, said Duncan's visit "raises the level of the conversation about the importance of early childhood education in Kansas City to priority. We have to find ways to guide resources to it. It has to be a community focus."

Despite GOP’s objections, preschool funding needed in America

The enthusiasm for universal pre-kindergarten was exceptionally high during Education Secretary Arne Duncan’s visit to Woodland Early Learning Center in Kansas City.

But Duncan, on the first stop Monday of a seven-state bus tour, explained that the millions of dollars the Obama administration wants for early childhood education is on the Republican chopping block in Congress.

That would take the country and President Barack Obama’s push for universal pre-kindergarten in the wrong direction. More funding, not less, is needed to make high quality preschool available for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

Duncan argues that early education programs lead to lower dropout rates, teen pregnancy and incarceration. They make children ready to enter kindergarten and give them a better chance at succeeding throughout school and becoming ready for college and careers.

Duncan found a lot of committed people here. The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce last year added early childhood education to its “Big 5” goals, which chamber president Jim Heeter emphasized to Duncan in a news conference at Woodland.

In addition, a plan is developing to ask some Kansas City voters for a tax increase to fund pre-kindergarten for multiple school districts. Civic leaders should be sharpening their best possible case that it will be the right move.

Mayor Sly James reiterated Duncan’s message that preschool funding is a good investment. “We’re committed to solving this early childhood education issue together,” James said.

At stake is the possibility of ending cycles of poverty for many families who can’t afford high quality pre-kindergarten programs. Early education is the best investment for the future that this city and nation could make.



Strengthening Child Care

September, 2015

Amy Blouin, Executive Director

Mike Sutherland, Policy Director

Missouri Budget Project

www.mobudget.org

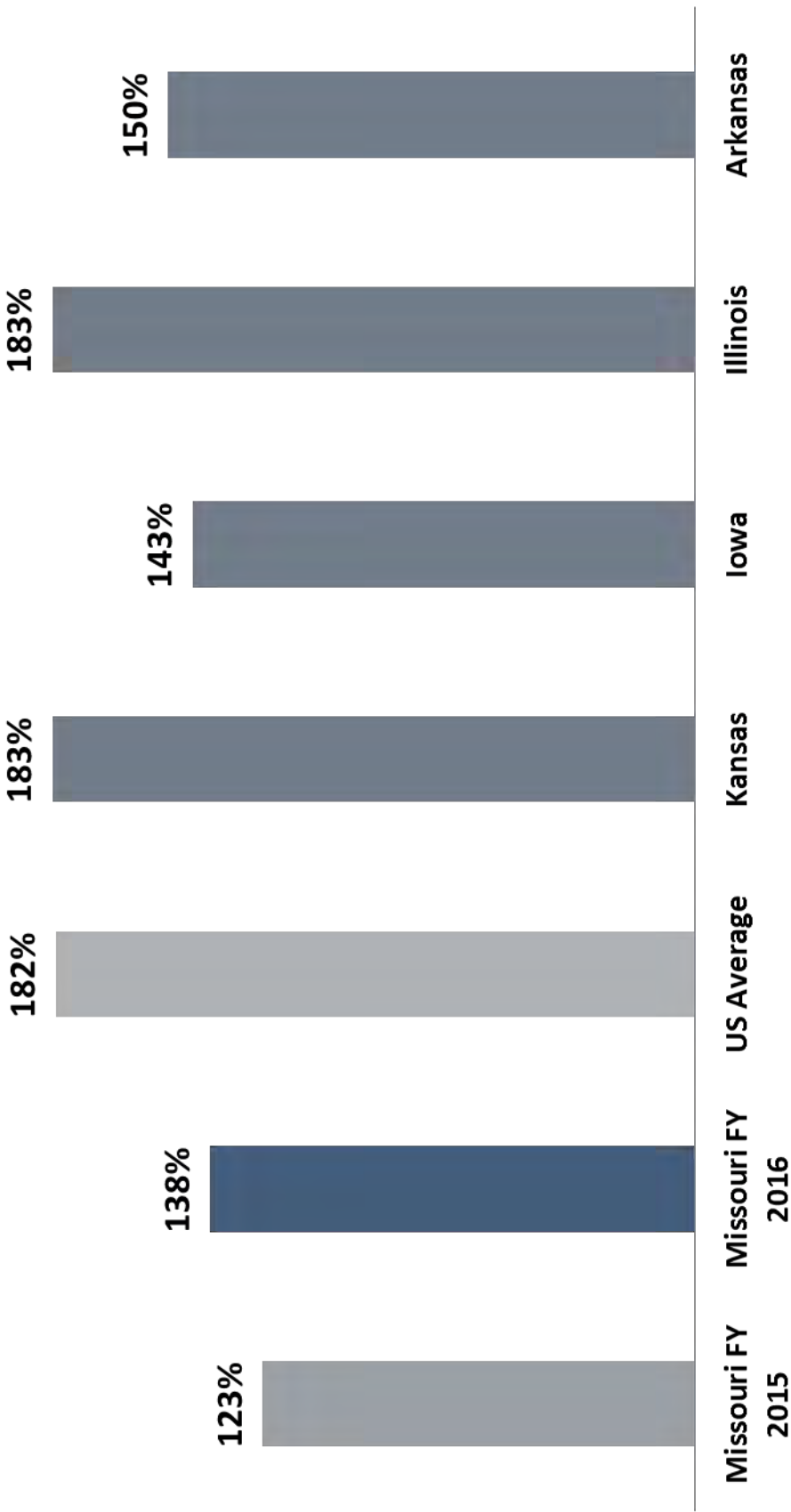
Children Receiving Childcare

*Monthly Average
July 2014 - June 2015*



Child Care

Child Care Eligibility Levels
As a percent of the Federal Poverty Level
Missouri Ranked 2nd last in 2015



Missouri Child Care Subsidy Rates

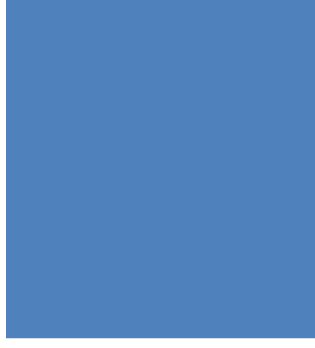
*Full-Time Infant Care Daily Rate
September 2015*

\$44.00



Market Rate

\$23.89



State Payment

Child Care & Early Education

Missouri's Child Care Workforce

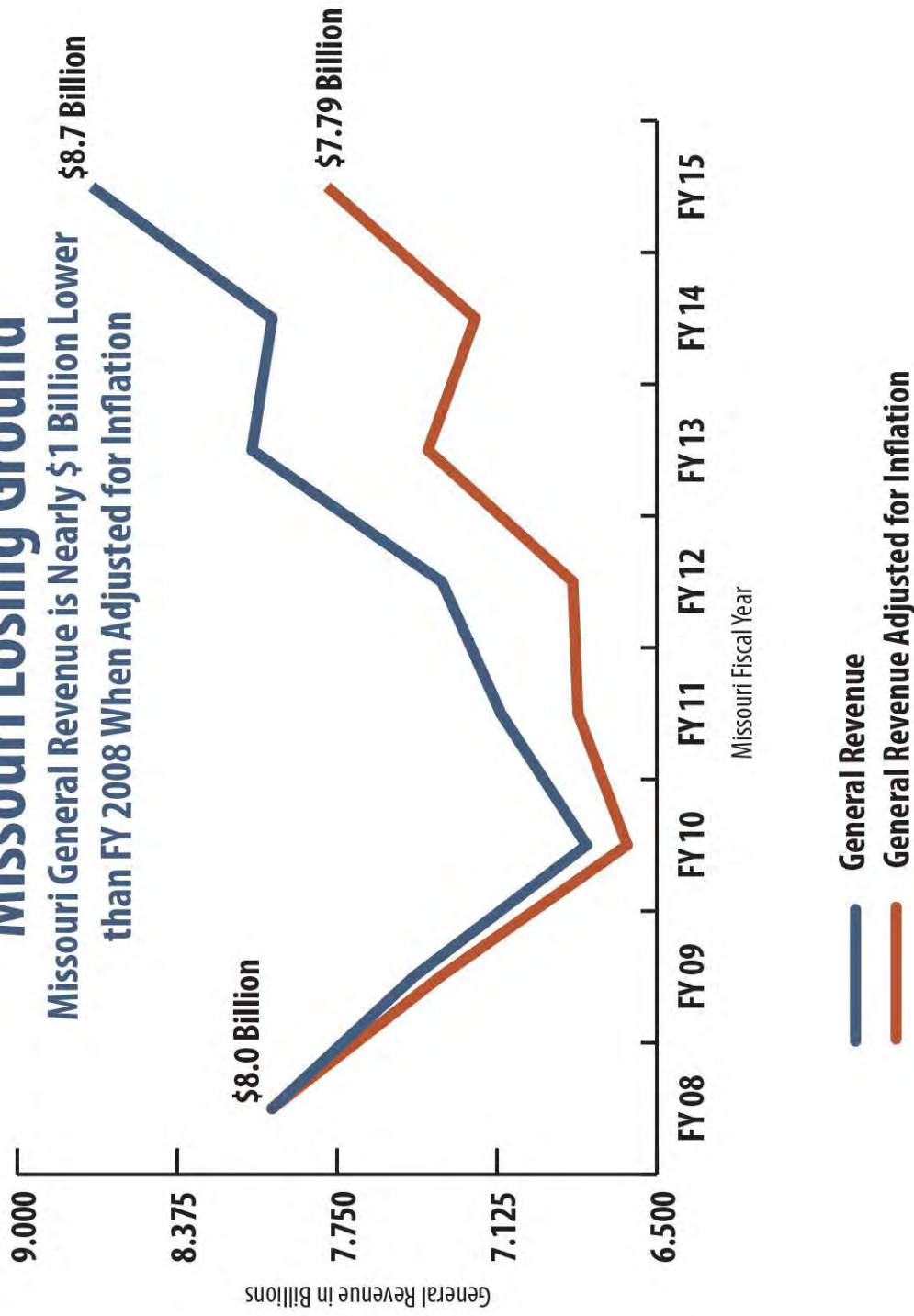
Missouri Incomes in 2014
US Department of Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics
\$42,790



Digging Out of A Hole

Missouri Losing Ground

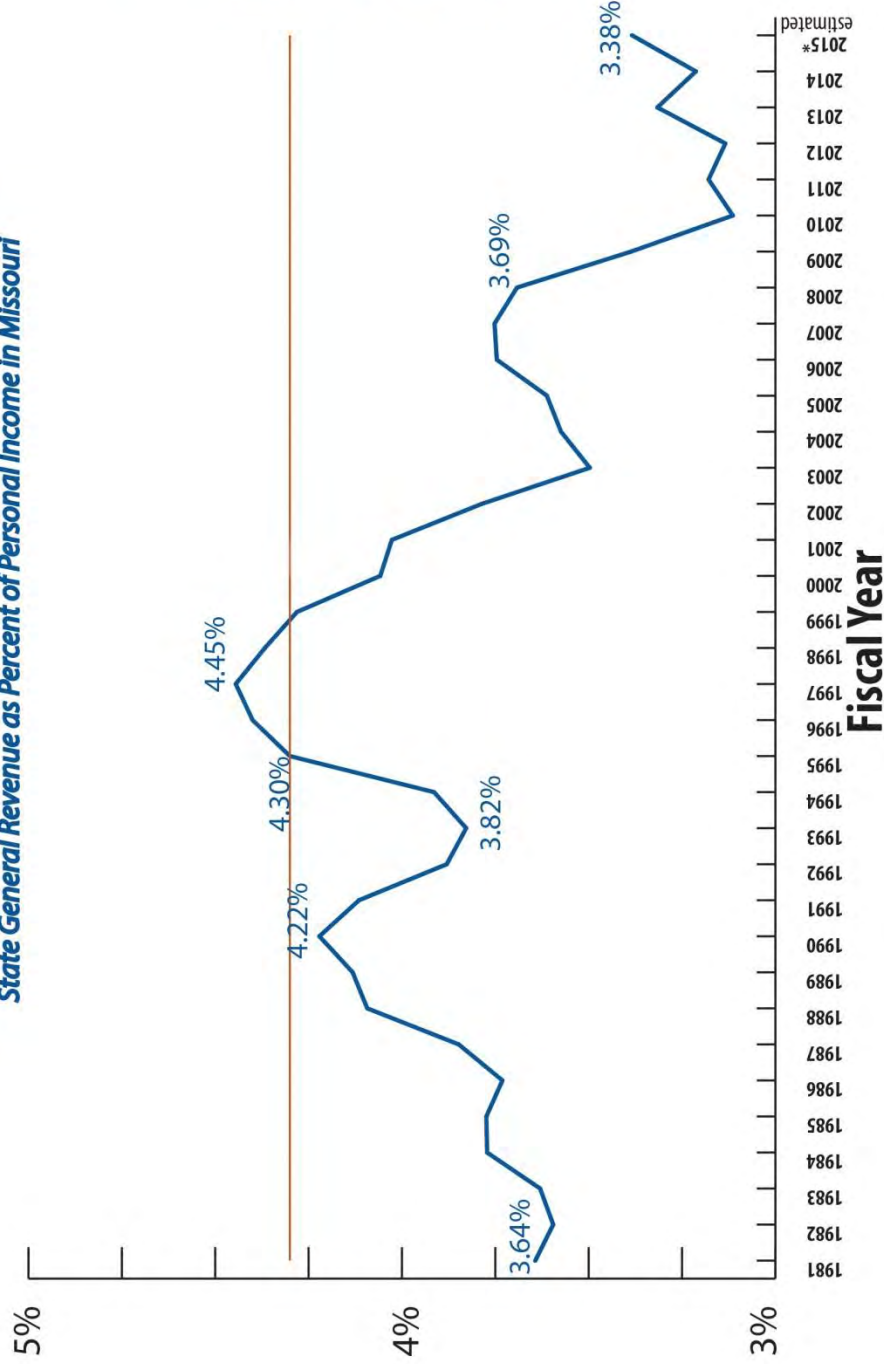
Missouri General Revenue is Nearly \$1 Billion Lower than FY 2008 When Adjusted for Inflation



Digging Out of A Hole

As State General Revenue Falls Relative to the Economy, Missouri Loses the Ability to Invest in Its Residents

State General Revenue as Percent of Personal Income in Missouri



In the last 20 years, GR has dropped significantly. If Missouri had the same level of funding as it did in 1995, revenue would have been \$2.36 billion higher in 2015.

E-commerce sales are expected to grow to more than \$400 billion in the next several years

- Forrester Research estimating \$414 billion in 2018
- eMarketer estimating \$491.5 in 2018.

Source: eMarketerOnline



Fiscal Impact of Streamlined

\$15-\$20 million in state general revenue annually
upon state implementation

**As much as \$350 million annually in state and
local revenue upon federal action**
(Truman School Analysis)

TOBACCO ~~eighteen~~ twenty-one

Reducing Youth Smoking in Kansas City, MO

The Problem:

- » More than 95% of long-term smokers started before age of 21.
- » Adolescent brains are still developing and are uniquely sensitive to nicotine addiction.
- » While youth smoking cigarettes is slowly declining, e-cigarette use among youth has more than doubled in recent years.
- » E-cigarettes contain nicotine, toxic chemicals and carcinogens and are currently available to 18-year-olds.
- » On average, area youth try cigarettes for the first time at age 12.
- » Smokers cost up to 40% more than non-smokers in health care costs.
- » For private businesses, smoking employees have an excess cost of, on average, \$5,816 per year.
- » The primary place that underage smokers get tobacco is from their 18 to 20 year old peers.
- » Over 80% of high school seniors are older than 18 when they graduate.

The Solution: Increasing the minimum legal age of sale for tobacco products to 21.

Our Proposal:

1. The sale of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapor products and paraphernalia should be restricted to those 21 and over.

The Health Impact:

- » Increasing the minimum legal sale age of tobacco to 21 can reduce overall smoking rates by 12%.
- » Data from Needham, MA shows a 50% reduction in tobacco use by high school students since their Tobacco 21 policy change in 2005.
- » Fewer smokers before 18 lead to fewer long-term smokers. In time, smoking prevalence will be significantly lower in our schools, workforce, and community.

Supporters:

- » 75% of U.S. adults, including 70% of current smokers.
- » Over 80 cities in seven states and the entire state of Hawaii have passed Tobacco 21.
- » Countless health organizations throughout the KC metro area.

How do we do this?

Through simple changes to city ordinances, similar to the one seen here.

Minor means a person under the age of 18 21.

The Problem

- » Youth and teen smoking in **MO is 14.9%** & **10.2% in KS**
(U.S. average 9.2%--range 5.9 to 17.8%)
- » 95% of smokers started before they were 21
- » E-cigarette use among youth has more than doubled in recent years and is resulting in a **high rate of conversion** to tobacco products
- » E-cigarettes contain toxic chemicals and carcinogens, in addition to nicotine.
- » Missouri and Kansas earned F's for tobacco prevention efforts (American Lung Association)

TOBACCO

~~eighteen~~ **twenty-one**

80+ Cities in 8 States



Tobacco 21 v. Tax Increase

10% price increase = estimated decrease in demand of 2.5 to 5%*

Tobacco 21 = estimated decrease in demand of 12%



It would take an estimated 24-48% increase in the price of a pack of cigarettes (a tax increase of \$1.26-\$2.52) to have the same impact on demand as Tobacco 21.

Competing forces look to raise the Missouri cigarette tax

By SCOTT CANON

Time and again, Missouri voters chose to keep the state's cigarette tax the lowest in the land.

Yet no fewer than three competing groups spent this summer plotting how to again ask Missourians to boost the cost of a pack of smokes.

Naturally, none of the groups thinks much of what the others are pushing. Instead, they're employing gamesmanship to rally as many backers as possible behind their measures — and to discourage support of the competition.

Some analysts figure only one proposal will ultimately make it to the November 2016 ballot — the one most likely to garner support from anti-smoking groups that have tried, and failed, in past years to crank up the tax.

The choices offered to voters could turn on how those monied forces line up in the next few weeks.

One convenience store group is floating a plan to add less than a quarter to the cost of a pack. Saying it's tired of fighting off big tobacco tax boosts, the organization proposes a small one.

Advocates for a suite of early childhood programs want to add 50 cents to the cost of a cigarette pack. They're toying with multiple proposals — dangling bait that might exploit divides within the tobacco industry or that could recruit other influential allies.

A third group would slap a full dollar on the price of a pack, promising the money for college scholarships and employing the considerable political clout of the state's higher education establishment.

Ballot efforts to raise the 17 cents-per-pack tax fell to defeat in 2002, 2006 and 2012. But the last campaign lost by less than a percentage point.

"The politics are trending toward increasing it," said [Peverill Squire](#), a political scientist at the University of Missouri. "The question is by how much."

And, just as critically, where will the money go.

Analysts say time is already running short. Ballot language must be approved by the Missouri secretary of state, typically a two-month process. Then the proposals must withstand likely legal challenges from opponents. Next comes the labor-intensive and expensive — most estimates range north of \$750,000 — work of collecting nearly 100,000 signatures before a May 8 deadline.

To persuade donors to contribute to a signature-gathering effort, the various camps must also persuade them they'll ultimately round up enough cash to win next fall. Such a campaign, experts say, would need at least \$5 million.

More immediately, the groups find themselves trying to elbow aside the efforts of the others.



Convenient idea

The [Missouri Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association](#) proposes bumping the tax by 23 cents. It would direct the money either to road construction or general state revenues. The plan draws skepticism in the state's political circles.

"It's a bargaining chip," said Republican [political consultant James Harris](#).

It's largely perceived as a bluff by the cigarette sellers to see if the other groups might shoot for a lower increase. In return, backers of the competing proposals might form an alliance with the convenience stores that spent so heavily to beat past tobacco tax-boost plans. Its ubiquitous outlets also work as pulpits to argue that steeper prices would hurt small businesses.

Ronald Leone, the executive director of the group, said he's tried to trigger an "adult conversation" about an alternative to "unfair and outrageous" increases in the state's cigarette tax.

If the other groups ratchet down their proposals, he said, the convenience stores might join forces or at least agree to sit out the campaign. Failing that, the organization's 23-cent tax boost could go on the ballot and tempt voters to choose the lowest increase.

"Our ultimate goal is to put this issue (a cigarette tax increase) to bed for the foreseeable future," Leone said.

Multiple choice

[Raise Your Hand for Kids](#) proposes a 50-cent tax boost to raise money for health and education programs for the first five years of life — including diaper vouchers for pregnant women who complete smoking cessation classes.

So far, that group has submitted six differing petitions to the [secretary of state](#). Partly, it's exploring which ideas will produce ballot language that would appeal most to voters. Partly, it's looking to see which other groups might back its cause.

For instance, one proposal would leave state law untouched on what special fees tobacco companies must pay stemming from a 1998 settlement over marketing their cancer-causing product. The companies agreed to make payments based on their annual national cigarette sales.

That status quo proposal favors newer, smaller cigarette makers who weren't parties to the [compact](#) and don't have to pay into the same anti-smoking efforts [and other funds](#).

Those mostly discount brands represent a far larger part of the market in Missouri than they do in other states, where they're treated the same as companies that were part of the settlement. Consequently, agreeing to leave the law alone might draw the support of so-called Small Tobacco.

Big Tobacco might be inclined to back another proposal drafted by the group if it changed the law.

Or one of the two might agree merely to sit out the campaign in return for steering one direction or the other.

"Having the different options strengthens our negotiating position," said Erin Brower, the executive director of Raise Your Hand for Kids. "We're in a three-way primary. The tobacco tax, since it is the lowest in the nation, you can understand why different interest groups are going to want to go after it."

She argues the convenience store proposal is simply too low to discourage smoking. She contends that the colleges' \$1-a-pack tax asks more than Missouri voters are willing to raise the tax — particularly when smokers are disproportionately poor and college students tend to come from wealthier families.

Campus clout

Finally, the Missouri Promise Initiative is just a few weeks old. It's yet to conduct polling or hire a consultant.

But its president, St. Louis lawyer Dudley McCarter, says the group has rounded up pledges of \$200,000. More critically, it boasts backing from the state public university and community college associations and corporate alumni.

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe has given speeches endorsing the \$1-a-pack increase for scholarships. He declined, through an assistant, to comment for this story. In response to a legislator concerned that he was using his public position to push for a tax increase, Wolfe wrote "I will not be using University of Missouri resources in my support of this important initiative and will take personal time off for these activities."

The push is also backed by Clint Zweifel, the Democratic state treasurer, and state Attorney General Chris Koster, the leading Democratic candidate for governor.

The group estimates the tax boost would raise about \$340 million its first year (a figure likely to drop as smokers quit or stop shopping in Missouri for cheaper cigarettes). The scholarship money would be available to students who graduate from high schools in the state and pursue higher education in Missouri.

McCarter said the convenience store group is "just playing a strategic campaign to mess things up." Raise Your Hand for Kids pushes a worthy cause, he said, but "we've got more civic boosters ready to back us than them."

He's also confident that traditional anti-smoking groups will join the tax-for-scholarships camp partly because the higher surcharge would do more to discourage cigarette use.

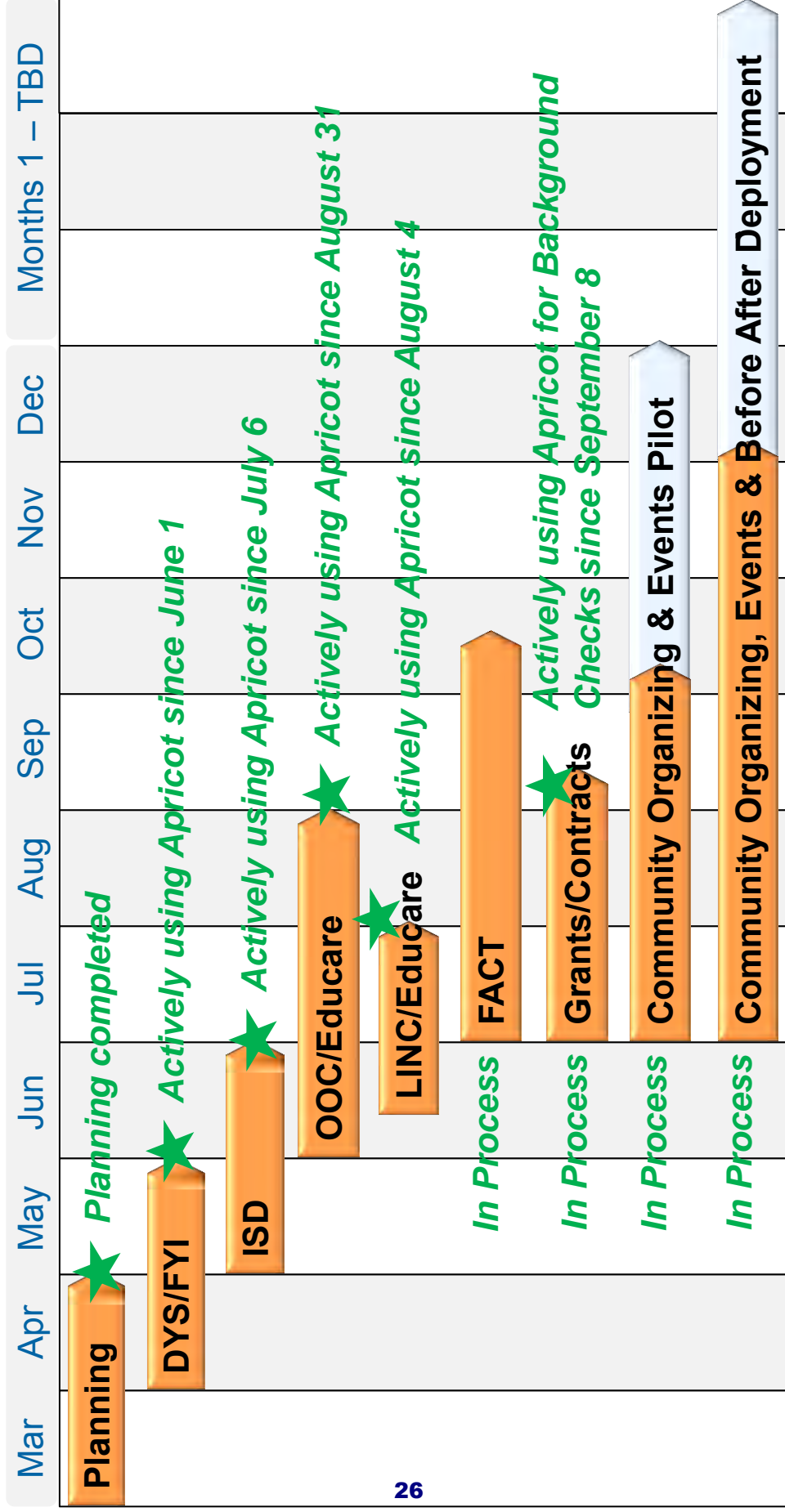
One key group, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, declined to comment on the coming campaigns.

Harris, the Missouri political consultant, said whether and where health-oriented groups pledge their money this year could determine how many tax-boost proposals show up on the ballot and which might fare best with voters next year.

"You want to have a certain amount in hand," he said, "and know you have some reliable sources."

To reach Scott Canon, call [816-234-4754](tel:816-234-4754) or send email to scanon@kcstar.com. Twitter: [@ScottCanon](https://twitter.com/ScottCanon).

Apricot Implementation Plan Update



As of 9/15/2015, 101 Active Users



Education Policy Fellowship Program

The Education Policy Fellowship Program brings together a diverse cohort of professionals from education, government, military, human services, business, and community organizations.

You are invited to apply if you have:

- A commitment to personal and professional development on behalf of children and youth
- A track record of making things happen — inside and across agencies/organizations
- A full-time professional position and substantive work experience
- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent
- The endorsement and financial support of your employing organization

What is my commitment if I am accepted as an EPFP Fellow?

- Attend and participate in all leadership forums and a national policy seminar
- Share your experience and knowledge with other Fellows through presentations, class discussion, and class projects.

How will my organization benefit from my participation in the EPFP?

Employers gain:

- Access to a professional development program with a proven track record
- Better informed, more skillful employees
- Employees who are ready to assume more leadership responsibilities
- Expanded networks that enhance the organization's ability to access key leaders and decision makers who shape policy on behalf of children and education.

What is my employer's commitment in supporting my participation?

- Provide release time for your participation in the Kansas City seminars and the national seminar
- Pay a tuition fee of \$2,500 plus all travel-related costs for the Kansas City and national seminars

2015-16 Educational Policy Fellowship Program

Sean Akridge

Local Investment Commission
Site Supervisor

Natalie Allen

Mo. Children's Division
Crossover Youth Initiative Coordinator

Patricia Amick

Metropolitan Community College
Assoc. Vice Chancellor of Financial Services and
Administrative Systems

Matthew Bonnot

U.S. Army General Command and General Staff College
Assistant Professor - Dept. of Command & Leadership

Keith Brown

Genesis School
Director of Parent and Community Involvement

David Buchmann

Local Investment Commission
Communications

Jennifer Collier

Kansas City Public Schools
Director of Human Capital Management

Jeanette Cowherd

Park Hill School District
Interim Superintendent

Rob Gardner

Platte County School District
Asst. Superintendent Personnel and Operations

Dale Herl

Independence School District
Superintendent

David Horn

Local Investment Commission
Director of Information Services

Bryce Johnson

Blue Springs School District
Principal

Mindy Johnson

Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley
Associate Dean of Student Development

Drew Lane

Shawnee Mission School District
Executive Director of Information and Communication
Technologies

Sharon Nibbelink

Center School District
Superintendent

David Schwarzenbach

Kearney School District
High School Principal

T.J. Spalty

Mo. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
Director Missouri School Improvement Program

Sabrina Tillman Winfrey

Hickman Mills School District
Principal

Earl Williams

Kansas City Public School District
Principal

Meeting Dates and Tentative Topics

All sessions will be held in the LINC Conference Room, 3100 Broadway, Suite 1100, unless otherwise noted.

Session Dates for 2015-2016:

- September 15–Policy Fellows and Alumni Reception, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (location TBD)
- September 16–8:30 to 4:30
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16
- January 20
- February 17
- March 9
- April 12-16 – Washington, D.C., Policy Seminar
- May 11
- June 15



There are three main strands for EPPF programs:

- Public Policy Processes, Issues, and Key Participants
- Leadership and Skill Development
- Networking

All of the sessions will focus on an aspect of public policy processes, issues, key participants, leadership, and skill development. Networking is interwoven into all of the sessions.

Session Topics will include the following:

- Assessing Leadership Styles
- Leadership Development and Strategic Thinking (with the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth)
- Policy Development – How and Why?
- Leadership and Local Policy Making
- Leadership and State Policy Making
- Leadership and Federal Policy Making
- Observing Local and State Boards of Education
- Major Policy Issues related to children’s success in schools
- Working Together for Children and Families
- Health and Mental Health Policies and Strategies
- Higher Education Policy
- Communication
- Race Relations and Public Policy





NEW BOOKS TO KIDS IN NEED

First Book, a nonprofit that provides books to kids in need, has over 500,000 brand-new books in a warehouse in Kansas City, MO! We need volunteers to help us sort, pack, label, and organize these books for distribution to public schools and programs serving children from low-income families.



WHEN Monday, September 21st - Friday, September 25th

WHERE Kansas City, MO 64127

TIMES Morning Shift: 8:00am to 12:00pm
Afternoon Shift: 1:00pm to 4:30pm

NEEDS Volunteers must be able to stand for their entire shift and lift 10 to 30 pound boxes of books.

SIGN UP www.firstbook.org/BBVolunteers

For more information, contact the Book Bank team at fbnbb@firstbook.org or 866-732-3669.

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*)

Kansas City Star – Sept. 16

Free books to open new chapter for kids

EDITORIAL

Starting next week, volunteers will begin the wonderful work of putting about 300,000 new books into children’s hands for joy, enrichment and shared family fun in the metropolitan area.

First Book has picked Kansas City as a national distribution center for 570,000 free books from Random House for children in low-income families. More than half of those books will be given to local children.

That’s on top of thousands of books that have been distributed by the United Way of Greater Kansas City through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, the mayor’s Turn the Page KC initiative and through the Local Investment Commission.

This is the largest-ever book distribution in the Kansas City area. And that’s important. Mike English, executive director of Turn the Page KC, said studies show that children in low-income families by age 3 have heard 30 million fewer words than children from middle- and upper-income families. Getting more books into their hands will help.

“The books really are tools to encourage family engagement,” English said.

The books include 94 titles for kids from birth to age 18. Examples are “Olivia Goes to Venice” for ages 4 to 6; “Maps and Geography” for ages 7 to 9; “Even the Princesses Go to the Potty” for kids up to age 3; “Go Ahead, Ask Me,” ages 16 to 18; “Under the Moons of Mars: New Adventures on Barsoom,” ages 10 to 12; and “No Limit,” ages 13 to 15.

“There’s a new civic energy and civic culture,” said Brent Schondelmeyer, deputy director for community engagement with LINC. “This community is starting to have a book-giving culture.”

Everyone should be proud of that. The latest effort springs from a great partnership involving LINC; First Book; Turn the Page KC; the Kansas City Federation of Teachers and School-Related Personnel, Local 691; and Family and Community Trust.

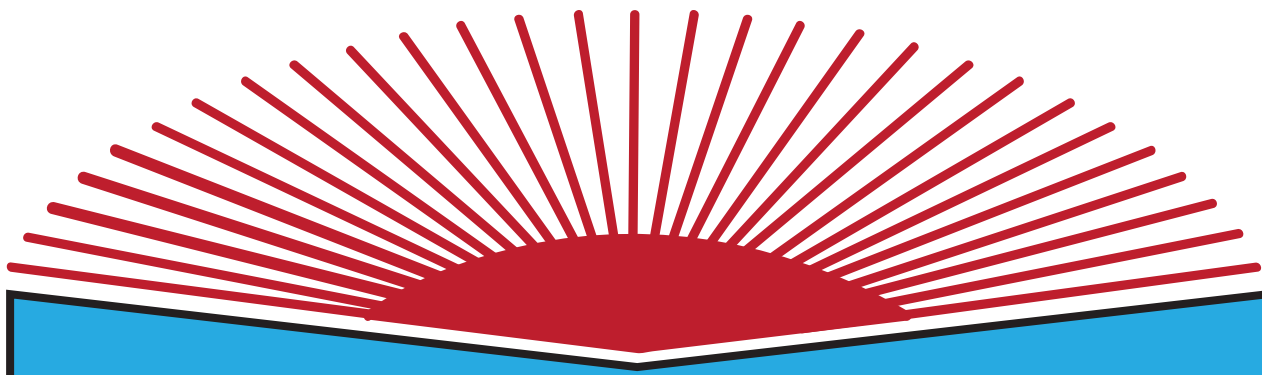
The books will be distributed from the Pioneer Campus of the Metropolitan Community College.

At least 200 volunteers working in shifts will make the distribution possible. About 190 schoolteachers, nonprofit leaders, parent educators and people with groups serving low-income kids will pick up the books for children. (People who want to volunteer can go to turnthepagekc.org.)

The community effort is an important addition in the push to boost reading comprehension so all children are college- and career-ready when they graduate from high school.

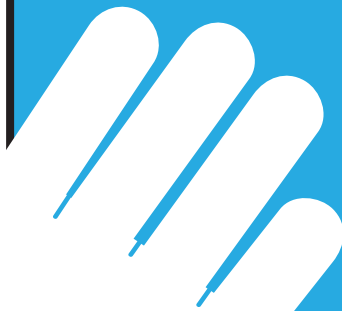


Low-income children will receive free new books from First Book. (Submitted photo.)



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Week of Sept. 21, 2015



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