

Based on significant educational research, Dr. Wayne Myers, School Readiness Coordinator for the Morgan County Schools, has developed a summer reading program for children at MCPS to combat summer loss of reading skills. With major funding from the Morgan County Foundation for Excellence in Public Education and several other benefactors, 800 children in the primary school have selected a set of books from Scholastic Publishing to read over the summer, either at home, at the Library, or at the Boys and Girls Club.

This is a pilot program, and continuation will be based on the results of pre- and post-tests, using the school system's MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) assessment program. The summer loss on this testing will be compared to the summer loss from the previous year, with the expectation of reducing that loss.

“If we can continue to reduce that loss it opens opportunities to gain more from the regular school year instructional program instead of playing ‘catch-up’. This can potentially lead to more students scoring in the ‘exceeds’ category [on state-mandated testing], and being prepared for involvement in more challenging instruction such as IB [International Baccalaureate program] and AP [Advanced Placement courses]. If successful, the goal is to expand to the Elementary School,” Dr. Myers said.

Dr. Myers and Ms. Baker at the Library are coordinating programs to enhance student chances to read, and the books from this reading program can be used toward the Library summer reading program certificate.