

**Every Child Reads is a collaborative effort among Dubuque parents, educators, nonprofits and civic leaders to ensure that all children succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship.**

Supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Every Child Reads focuses on an important predictor of school success and high school graduation: grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

Our work is informed by an understanding of how childhood adversity affects learning. As we seek to prepare all children in our community for school and life, we place an added emphasis on those who are most vulnerable, helping them and their families overcome barriers to their achievement.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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|--|---|
| Carnegie-Stout Public Library                                    | Four Oaks Family and Children's Services              |
| CDI Head Start – Serving Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson Counties, IA | Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral of Northeast Iowa |
| City of Dubuque  | Iowa State University Extension and Outreach          |
| City of Dubuque AmeriCorps Partners in Learning Program          | Keystone Area Education Agency                        |
| Dubuque Community Schools  | Northeast Iowa Community College                      |
| Dubuque County Early Childhood                                   | St. Mark Youth Enrichment                             |
| Dubuque Dream Center   | United Way of Dubuque Area Tri-States                 |
| Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA                                      |   |
| Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association                               |   |



This document is a collective plan of action that will help guide the work of Every Child Reads and our community partners.

With a goal of ensuring that Dubuque students succeed in school, the plan outlines specific strategies that encourage coordination among the diverse groups of community leaders whose work touches the lives of all children in our community.

Through collaboration, we can create an environment in which all children and families have access to the resources they need to thrive.

**Kelly Krause, Ed.D**

Education Officer

[kelly@dbqfoundation.org](mailto:kelly@dbqfoundation.org)

563.588.2700 | [dbqfoundation.org/ecr](http://dbqfoundation.org/ecr)

700 Locust Street, Suite 195, Dubuque IA 52001



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**DUBUQUE  
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS  
ACTION PLAN**

# SCHOOL READINESS

**GOAL** Work collectively to ensure that every child has access to high-quality early experiences so they enter kindergarten ready to learn.

## STRATEGIES

**Develop and distribute messaging to support early literacy.**

- Develop common messages and communication tools for community partners to use in their work
- Build community awareness about community partners' efforts to support early literacy

**Engage parents and direct care professionals to understand and support social-emotional development.**

- Develop a menu of recommended curriculum options and training
- Promote the role of children's mental health and trauma in school success
- Host peer-to-peer groups for parents to connect

**Increase awareness of and access to health and developmental screenings for children age 5 and younger.**

- Improve coordination of screenings and follow-up care
- Identify, promote and provide training for quality screening tools

**Support parents to identify and access quality child care.**

- Promote and support participation among child care programs in the Quality Rating System
- Reduce barriers for providers to become registered
- Enhance communications to families about the importance of quality early childhood programming and how to identify quality child care

# SUMMER LEARNING

**GOAL** Prioritize high-quality, enriching activities to ensure every child maintains or grows reading proficiency over the summer.

## STRATEGIES

**Develop and distribute messaging for families and students about the importance of summer learning.**

- List local summer enrichment activities online and promote community-wide
- Participate in events to share messages and resources
- Support and promote summer food programs

**Increase student attendance in literacy-based summer programs with a focus on students who are most vulnerable.**

- Employ evidence-based strategies for engaging families
- Identify incentives to encourage participation

**Continue working with community partners to support literacy development in their programming.**

- Connect with partners offering summer programs and develop a plan to support them based on program or need
- Identify potential tools or curricula for partners
- Continue collaboration with summer programs offering morning literacy instruction to engage students most at risk for summer learning loss

**OUTCOME** Increase the percentage of students who maintain or improve their reading proficiency over the summer months.

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

**GOAL** Provide supports and resources to students and families to ensure that no child misses more than 10% of each school year.

## STRATEGIES

**Enhance engagement with families to support student attendance and success.**

- Develop communication tools for community partners to emphasize the importance of attendance and effects of student absence
- Identify community supports to reduce chronic absence and develop systems for referral
- Promote attendance in preschool and kindergarten to develop regular attendance habits from an early age

**Understand transportation barriers related to school attendance and develop strategies to address these barriers.**

- Collect and analyze data to identify the need of transportation support

**Identify health and insurance barriers contributing to student absence.**

- Identify barriers to vaccination access
- Develop strategies for communicating with families about Hawk-I insurance program qualifications and coverage

**Identify and share resources for families with barriers to child care.**

- Communicate with school district staff and community partners about Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral supports
- Develop a toolkit for schools with resources related to child care

**OUTCOME** Increase the number of school days in attendance among students most at risk for chronic absence.

# BOOKS IN HANDS

**GOAL** Work collectively to ensure that every child has books readily available to them at home and in the community.

## STRATEGIES

**Identify partnerships and opportunities to make books available.**

- Work with businesses and organizations that serve families to offer books in child-friendly areas
- Identify current book distribution programs and opportunities for enhancing their reach

**OUTCOME** Increase the number of free books distributed.

