

100 Book Challenge

in 120 classrooms
in 8 elementary
schools

THE
BALTIMORE
COUNTY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

2007-2008
Fact Sheet

What is the 100 Book Challenge?

- Designed to encourage independent reading by students, the 100 Book Challenge is a research-based program that includes professional development and parent support components. The system is being used successfully in more than 1,400 schools in 256 school districts across the United States.

What impact has the 100 Book Challenge had in Baltimore County Public Schools?

- During the pilot at Mars Estates Elementary School from November 2004 through June 2005, all of the participating students improved two or more independent reading levels.
- During the 2006-2007 school year, the 1,409 students in the Challenge raised their independent reading levels an average of 8 months over approximately 4.5 months' time. Some students even gained one year or more in their independent reading levels during this period.
- More than 50 percent of parents read with their children or monitored their independent reading three or more nights per week.

How does the 100 Book Challenge work?

- The key components of the 100 Book Challenge in Baltimore County schools are:
 - Students selecting fiction and non-fiction books, at their developmentally appropriate independent reading levels, to read at school and at home
 - Teachers offering daily Reader's Workshops to connect classroom instruction to independent reading and to conduct one-on-one conferences with students (focusing on issues such as book selection and reading comprehension)
 - Schools hosting annual Reading Nights to share information about the program with families and to support parents in serving as their children's "reading coaches" at home
 - Schools presenting students with rewards (e.g., prizes, ribbons, or certificates) for every 20 "steps" or 300 minutes students read

"Reading is more
than a set of skills.

It's a lifestyle...100

Book Challenge is a
system designed to

get all of our

students into the

habit of successful

independent reading

every day."

*from the Web site of the
American Reading Company,
creators of 100 Book
Challenge*

**For more information,
please contact the Office
of Communications at 410-
887-5908.**

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Where is the program being implemented in Baltimore County Public Schools?

- During 2007-2008, the program is being implemented in 120 kindergarten through fifth-grade classes in Chase, Deer Park, Halstead, Mars Estates, Pleasant Plains, Randallstown, Winfield, and Woodmoor elementary schools. Schools were selected based on high minority populations and/or Title I status.
- During the 2006-2007 school year, 1,409 students in 99 classrooms participated at Chase, Deer Park, Mars Estates, Pleasant Plains, Randallstown, and Winfield elementary schools. Of those students, 71 percent were African American, 20 percent white, 4 percent Hispanic, 3 percent multi-racial, 2 percent Asian, and less than 1 percent American Indian.

“I want my child to do well in school; 100 Book Challenge gives me the materials to help at home. We are even reading the books each night to the 2-year-old.”

A Winfield Elementary School parent

“This is [my daughter’s] second year, and I want to make sure she has this program all the way through school.”

A Mars Estates Elementary father

“100 Book Challenge is good to help you increase reading more chapter books so your reading skills get better. I can read more and more all of the time.”

A Pleasant Plains Elementary School student