

PUBLIC RECORD



SENATOR HAYWOOD'S SUMMER READING PROGRAMS KICK OFF

State Sen. Art Haywood (D-4 PA) announced the opening of the inaugural "Read to Succeed" summer camps he is hosting in partnership with state Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-7 PA), as well as the start of his third annual "Read by Fourth" reading programs. As many as 350 students in Northwest Philadelphia will participate. Sen. Haywood offers these programs as part of his Reading Revolution initiative.

Six recreation centers – Belfield, Dorothy Eman-

uel, Finley, Lonnie Young, Pleasant and Simons – as well as Summer Fit Camp at New Covenant Church, will provide the "Read by Fourth" curriculum, which is offered in affiliation with the Free Library of Philadelphia, to campers for six weeks of instruction.

"Read to Succeed" half-day camps will run Monday through Thursday until Aug. 3 and are located at Roosevelt Elementary and McCloskey Elementary schools. Enrollment for both programs is open

to students entering first through third grades.

Studies show that children who cannot read at grade level by fourth grade will be at a disadvantage throughout their academic career and are more likely to drop out of high school. Additionally, all children are at risk of losing reading skills during the summer break.

"The ability to read, and read well, is critical not only to understanding words in a book," said Sen. Haywood. "It is the foundation

for many important subject areas necessary for a successful, productive life. The Reading Revolution provides opportunities for parents to read aloud to their children, for children to

maintain and build on their existing reading ability and for those who are behind to get more hands-on help.

"Last year, all participating students avoided the summer slide – and many

even improved on their reading skills. As Frederick Douglass said, 'Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.' I look forward to another summer of reading success."

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