



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR TIM BURCHETT

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Contact: | Michael Grider | Stephanie Welch | May 16, 2015 |
| | Knox Co. Mayor's Office | Great Schools Partnership | |
| | 215-4750 office | 215-2042 office | |
| | 363-8681 cell | 368-5307 cell | |

Mayor Burchett, Great Schools Partnership announce new reading initiative

Knoxville, Tenn. — This morning during the Children's Festival of Reading, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett announced plans for a new childhood reading initiative called *Leaders for Readers*. This volunteer tutor program will be implemented by the Great Schools Partnership.

Unlike previous volunteer reading programs, *Leaders for Readers* will train and supply volunteer tutors with materials in alignment with current classroom curriculum. Tutors will work during and after school at a variety of Knox County elementary and middle schools.

Third grade reading proficiency is a key indicator of a student's future academic success. Currently, only approximately half are reading on grade level.

"Reading is the foundation of education, and I want to thank the Great Schools' Partnership for their support of this initiative," said Mayor Burchett. "Our teachers do outstanding work, and we want to implement a program that aligns with what they're teaching in the classroom so we can give them and our students the best chance of success."

For more information on the *Leaders for Readers* program, including a volunteer sign-up application, visit <http://www.greatschoolspartnership.com/leaders-for-readers/> or call 215-4501.

###