



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes
August 12, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:00pm
via Zoom

Meeting Objective: Discuss workgroup future goals

Attendees: Cindy Resse (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition (BCECC)), Kelly Scheuerman (Brighter Beginnings), Kristen Smith (Columbia Public Schools), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL)), Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome
 - a. Partner Updates
 - i. Sarah Howard (DBRL) shared that the summer reading program has officially concluded. They will have another Rainbow Storytime in November/December.
 - ii. Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes) is working on an event to give away books the end of September/October, he's exploring locations both for the event and to house the books.
 - iii. Enola (BCCSD) provided an update on the ACA book drive. Within two weeks have collected 72 books. The drive continues through October.
2. Future meeting format
 - a. The workgroup decided to return to 1.5-hour meetings that will be virtual only, with the option for individuals to join in person at the Community Services Department. An option to alter the meeting frequency was presented but tabled until later in the meeting.
3. Raising Readers Updates
 - a. Raising Readers had a presence at the following community events:
 - i. Kiwanis Club – June 9
 - ii. ACA Book Drive – launched July 15 – October 31
 - iii. Friends of the Centralia Library – July 29
 - iv. Community Baby Shower – August 1
 - v. Grown Up Book Fair – August 8
 1. Future Events
 - a. Children's Grove – Cindy takes materials and gives out books, usually hosted in Spring
 - b. Unity in the Community is hosting a Back-to-School Event Friday August 15. The workgroup will discuss participation at this event in 2027.
 - b. Email List
 - i. Have added 7 new contacts list since May 2026, they have mostly come from community events
 - c. Facebook
 - i. To date has 137 followers
4. Book Access Planning
 - a. The workgroup discussed how to distribute the books that are being donated and what information (if any) should be collected when books are given out. It was decided to create a QR code sticker that links to the BCCSD website with a survey. The survey would ask the following: what school district they



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live in, age/grade of the child/children, where they received the book, and general messaging about Raising Readers

- i. An idea for sample messaging included “This book can stay with you as long as you want, if that’s weeks or years. When you’re ready to share, here are ways you can share it with another child/family.” The idea is to allow time for kids to love the books and let them know they are not obligated to return them.

5. Workgroup future goals

- a. Gina Jenkins (BCCSD) provided background on the workgroup’s progress prior to Raising Readers. She highlighted the 2025 focus and priorities the workgroup supported moving forward on were Literacy Interventions (became Raising Readers), Waitlist Challenges, Screenings, and Technology access support. Joanne Nelson (BCCSD) then shared the 2021 Mobility Action Plan (MAP). The workgroup expressed interest in reviewing the MAP and comparing the forecasted trends to the actual data. Additionally, there was a preliminary discussion of exploring ways to tie Raising Readers to the other goals of the MAP and the 2025 focus/priorities.
- b. The workgroup decided not to alter the meeting frequency.

6. Next Steps

- a. The September meeting will remain virtual but return to 1.5 hours. If unable to join virtually, workgroup members can come from the Community Services Office located at 107 N 7th Street, Columbia.
- b. Enola will create updated graphs to compare the MAP data with current data. These will be shared at the September meeting.

7. Closing

- a. Enola closed the meeting thanking everyone for their time

Next Workgroup Meeting: September 9, 2026 3:00 – 4:30pm via Zoom