

America Reads Challenge Program

The America Reads Challenge (ARC) program is a part of a national campaign initiated by President Bill Clinton in 1997 to help young children improve their reading and math skills.

- 50% American cannot read 8th grade book!
- Basic literacy skills must develop before entering school otherwise children are more likely to drop out.

As an American Reads participant, you not only learn how to help students succeed, you become a **proud** KSU Paulding Owl.



“Out-of-school reading habits of students have shown that even 15 minutes a day of independent reading can expose students to more than a million words of text in a year.”

The ARC program is currently in place in over 1,000 colleges and universities. Work-study eligible students **from any discipline** may partner up with local schools and non-profit agencies. This year we are targeting **Hershel Jones Middle School, Dallas Elementary, Allgood Elementary, and the Paulding County Boys and Girls Club.**

The work-study eligible students will work one-on-one from 10-20 hours a week as tutors and mentors to the children, in the identified locations, by helping to encourage success, create relationships, and share a common enjoyment of reading and math.

How to Apply



To apply for the America Reads Challenge Program, apply through the Federal Work Studies KSU website: (<http://financialaid.kennesaw.edu/types-of-aid/fws-application.php>). Select the school of your choice.



References



Jonathan Kozol, *Illiterate America*: “50 percent of American adults are unable to read an eighth grade level book. “

Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding, 1988: “Out-of-school reading habits of students has shown that even 15 minutes a day of independent reading can expose students to more than a million words of text in a year.”

National Adult Literacy Survey, (1002) NCES, U.S. Department of Education: “Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3 - 4 times more likely to drop out in later years.”

