

## ABOUT THE PETITION

### Current Situation

The 2008-09 state budget includes “flexibility language” that allows school districts to use funds reserved for reading for other purposes. These designated reading funds are the primary source of state funding for Florida’s 2,400 reading coaches. This flexibility has enabled many school districts throughout Florida to divert funds from the important purposes of funding reading coaches, instruction, and materials. As a result, many schools have already lost their reading coaches.

### Purpose of the Petition

The Florida Literacy Coaches Association (FLCA) is a statewide organization for reading coaches and supporters that enables them to share the latest research, best practices, and success stories with one another. In addition, FLCA seeks to advocate with a unified voice for the literacy needs of all stakeholders in schools across Florida.

FLCA is conducting a statewide petition to gather support for restoring dedicated funding for reading coaches. The goal is to collect 100,000 signatures by December 2008 and then share the results of the petition with Governor Crist and members of the Florida Legislature.

### Instructions for Gathering Signatures

You can help by seeking support and signatures from reading coaches, classroom teachers, principals, parents, business leaders, community leaders, and members of your community.

Use the “About Reading Coaches” page to explain what reading coaches do and why they need support. If time allows, share student data from your school or district and personal anecdotes about the difference reading coaches make for teachers and students throughout your school.

After reading the statement of support, have the supporter:

1. Sign their name in the first column.
2. Write their position in the second column (e.g., reading coach, 5<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, assistant principal, PTA president, parent, business owner, concerned citizen).
3. Write their school in the third column if they are a school employee or public school parent. They can write their county if they are not attached to a particular school.
4. Write their e-mail address on the back of the petition form if they are interested in staying informed on the progress of the petition and updated on legislative action.

Submit completed pages to FLCA one of two ways: either scan your pages and e-mail them or make photocopies and mail them. Remember to copy the back page if you collect any e-mail addresses. Finally, be sure to include your name and contact info in your e-mail or envelope.

*If you have any questions, e-mail [petition@floridaliteracycoaches.org](mailto:petition@floridaliteracycoaches.org) or call (850) 298-8571.*

## **ABOUT READING COACHES**

**Reading coaches help classroom teachers in every subject area—from math and science to social studies—incorporate reading strategies into their lessons.**

Through third grade, students are learning how to read. In later grades, students must be able to read in order to learn.

Reading coaches share research-based strategies for promoting literacy with classroom teachers and guide them in making instructional decisions based on their students' needs and abilities.

When necessary, reading coaches can work directly with students in the teacher's classroom.

Reading coaches support principals by monitoring the latest state requirements for reading and tracking the progress of all of the school's struggling readers.

Reading coaches work with their schools' reading leadership teams to review student performance, set goals, and monitor progress.

Florida leads the nation in 4th grade reading improvement as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is known as "The Nation's Report Card."

**However, dedicated funding for reading coaches has been cut, and schools throughout the state are losing their reading coaches.**

Please express your support by signing our statewide petition to restore Florida's reading coaches.

