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Book Vending Machines Encourage Young Readers

Kansas City, Mo., October 4, 2023 — Three local literacy organizations, [Lead to Read KC](#), [Turn the Page KC](#), and [Literacy KC](#) are teaming up to increase children's access to free books through placement of book vending machines at three schools in the Kansas City area:

Trailwoods Elementary, 6201 E. 17th St., Kansas City, MO
Kick-off celebration for **Wednesday, October 11 at 12:05 p.m.**

Turner Sixth Grade Academy, 6425 Riverview Ave., Kansas City, KS
Kick-off celebration is scheduled for **Thursday, October 12 at 10 a.m.**

Kansas City International Academy, 414 Wallace Ave, Kansas City, MO
Kick-off celebration is scheduled for **Monday, October 23 at 9 a.m.**

“Thanks to this partnership we’re able to delight students with an incentive that encourages more reading outside of school.” said Pauly Hart, Lead to Read KC Executive Director. “The more we can make reading a fun and rewarding activity, the more kids will read.”

The vending machine has space for approximately 250 books, which equates to around 20 copies each of 12-15 titles. Vending tokens will be presented to students to feed the machine and select a free book to take home. Schools will determine specific ways for the books to serve as incentives and rewards.

Turn the Page KC’s work on the project was supported by a grant funded by the HDR Foundation, a philanthropic foundation funded and led by employees at global design firm HDR. Turn the Page KC also will supply new books to refill the machines during the first three years. Lead to Read KC helped provide funding for all three vending machines and Literacy KC contributed funding support for the Turner Academy placement.

[Lead to Read KC](#) is a children's literacy nonprofit dedicated to supporting the social, emotional and reading skills that are foundational to student success. It does this by mobilizing community volunteers, called Reading Mentors, to read one-to-one with students attending high-need elementary schools across Kansas City, as well as through its tutoring program, its Reading Is EverywhereSM community book distribution initiative, and its author visit program.

[Turn the Page KC](#) is a collective impact organization that focuses on increasing literacy in and across Greater Kansas City. The nonprofit curates resources and brings together youth literacy advocates to connect them with communities raising the next generation of Kansas Citians.

[Literacy KC](#) offers a welcoming community for adults and families to improve literacy skills and enhance quality of life through literacy, language, and workforce development programs. With support from volunteers, donors, partners, and the community at large, Literacy KC invests in Kansas City's greatest asset – our people.

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