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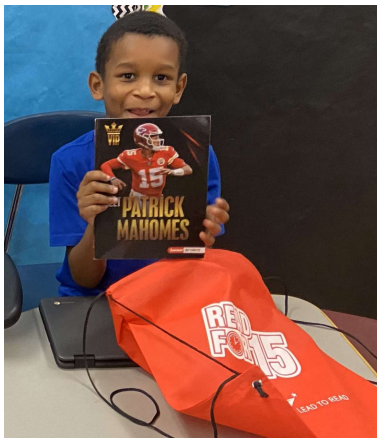
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**15 and the Mahomies Continue Partnership with Lead to Read KC  
To Distribute over 5K Books to Local Schools**

*Patrick Mahomes renews campaign encouraging kids to read for 15 minutes a day  
with the help of local nonprofit organizations*

**Kansas City, Mo.** -- Kansas City Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes and his foundation [15 and the Mahomies](#) have once again teamed up with local nonprofit [Lead to Read KC](#) to encourage children to develop a love for reading through the “Read for 15” program.



Read for 15 motivates children with a pledge they take to read every day for 15 minutes over a 15 week period. Parents and caregivers help keep track of their child’s reading and cheer them on and share pictures on social media using #ReadFor15 or by tagging [@leadtoreadkc](#). Reading 15 minutes a day is the “magic number” at which students see a substantial gain in reading achievement.

Lead to Read KC delivered books from the **Read for 15** program to students at **George Melcher Elementary School** on January 24. Deliveries will continue to other participating schools through February 5.

The most current testing results from the [Urban Institutes’ National Assessment of Educational Programs](#) show that two thirds of U.S. children are unable to read with proficiency. A shocking 40 percent are considered nonreaders. A lack of books and lack of practice are the leading causes of childhood illiteracy. One of the most successful ways to improve a child's reading ability is to increase access to books.

**About 15 and the Mahomies:**

*15 and the Mahomies is dedicated to improving the lives of children. The Foundation supports initiatives that focus on health, wellness, communities in need of resources and other charitable causes. It was established by NFL MVP, Kansas City Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes in 2019.*

**About Lead to Read KC:**

*[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 Everywhere<sup>SM</sup> community book distribution initiative, and its author visit program.*

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