



*Building the Future, One Child at a Time*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**February 16, 2024**

## **Stewart County Schools Creates Get Fit Lit Task Force to Promote Literacy**

**LUMPKIN, GA** - Recognizing the importance of early literacy for future success, the Stewart County School District took a bold step forward by partnering with its community to create the Get Fit Lit task force. This innovative initiative exemplifies the power of collaboration in tackling educational challenges.

The task force brought together educators, families, community leaders, and representatives from county agencies like libraries and health departments. This diverse group worked collaboratively to identify the literacy needs of young children in their community, leading to the development of a comprehensive early literacy action plan.

This action plan is unique in its scope, involving the school district and various county agencies. This ensures a holistic approach to early literacy, addressing not just academic but also social and emotional well-being. The action plan incorporates library story times, book donations, health screenings, and parent education workshops, all working together to support young learners.

The Get Fit Lit initiative will serve as a model for other communities seeking to bridge the gap between schools and families, ultimately creating a supportive environment where every child thrives.

Please review the action plan found on the next page. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

*Michael H Robinson, Ed.D*  
**Superintendent of Schools**

**About Stewart County School District** - Stewart County School District is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusion and diversity. We take affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity for all applicants, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, Veteran status, or other legally protected characteristics.

## Stewart County Community Action Plan to Improve Early Literacy

**Overarching Goal:** Increase the number of students scoring proficient or better grades 3-5 on the GMAS by fostering a love for reading throughout the Stewart County community by involving all stakeholders in the process.

Smart Goal	Action/Strategy/Intervention <small>What discrete action step will the team implement to direct the course of change?</small>	Resources <small>What Professional Learning/ Resources are needed to implement the action step?</small>	Timeline <small>What is the timeline for implementation?</small>	Person(s) Responsible <small>Who will be responsible for monitoring the action step?</small>	Artifacts or Evidence
While collaborating with the Stewart County Community, the Student County School District will improve the number of students scoring proficient and distinguish in content mastery on the Spring 2024 GMAS in grades 3-5 by five percentage points	Increase trips to the SC public library for K-5 students *Note: PK students visit regularly	Parental Consent Bus transportation (local)	December - May 2024	School Admin and Media Specialist	K-5 <sup>th</sup> grade students will take a field trip to the public library at least one grade level monthly from January - April 2024
	Increase storytelling provided by school, and community stakeholders	Volunteer readers	January - May 2024	School Admin and Media Specialist	A log of guest readers will document the increase in guest readers during the school day.
	Continue to distribute books and tips for reading at community events	L4GA funds	January - May 2024	L4GA Coordinator GetLitFit members	Purchase orders and social media posts/pics will document the distribution of books/tips.
	Continue to increase Story Walks	L4GA funds Extension Agency guidance and support	January - February 2024	County Extension Agent	Story Walk installed on the playground
	Survey students for reading interests	NA	By March 2024	Media Specialist	Completed survey results will be shared with the school's leadership team before February
	Host Critical Conversations to communicate school system priorities	Local/district funds if needed	December 14 February 2 April 25, 2024	Superintendent	Pics, posts, signatures, and agendas from meetings
	Increase the use of a Parent Engagement coordinator in facilitating/communicating literacy-related training and events.	L4GA funds	January – May 2024	K-12 Principal Title I Director Parent Engagement Coordinator	Pics, posts, signatures, and agendas from monthly meetings
	Hold monthly Literacy Celebrations to recognize mastery and growth of Lexile Levels	Donations Local	December – May 2024	School Admin and Counselor	Report the number of students recognized monthly and over the course of the year. (Leadership Team and GetLitFit meetings)