



from the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee
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Winners of statewide reading contest announced ***Seventy-three percent of schools participate in first year of successful contest***

Columbia – Today, the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) announced the winners of the “Read Your Way to the Big Game” Contest, a statewide reading contest held this Fall for students in SC public primary, elementary, and middle schools. Student winners of the contest have won tickets to the Palmetto Bowl, to be played by the University of South Carolina Gamecock and Clemson Tiger football teams on November 28.

David Whittemore, EOC’s Chairman, said the committee was very pleased with the results of the contest.

“The students and staff of the participating schools outdid themselves this inaugural year of the contest,” Whittemore said. “We had over 76,000 entries and that’s nearly half a million books read!”

The winners of the 2015 contest include:

Student Winners: “Read Your Way to the Big Game” Contest

- USC Student Winner: Travija Austin, 4th grader, Ford Elementary (Laurens 55 School District)
- Clemson Student Winner: Lilliana Trejo, 2nd grader, Greendale Elementary (Aiken County School District)

School Winners (had at least 70% student participation, won \$2,000 for their libraries)

- Chesterfield-Ruby Middle School (Chesterfield County School District)
- Iva Elementary (Anderson 3)

Teacher Winners of \$500

- Ms. Monica Wilson, 5K teacher, Bishopville Primary School (Lee County School District)
- Ms. Joni Levesque, 4th grade Math Teacher, Bethel Elementary School (Clover)
- Mr. Eric Hanks, ELA Teacher, River Oaks Middle School (Dorchester 2)
- Ms. Stacey Finch, 1st grade teacher, Chester Park Center of Literacy Through Technology (Chester)
- Mr. Roman Singleton, Teacher, Estill Middle School (Hampton 2)

Winners of Bulletin Board / Door Contest

- Ms. Deborah Palmer, School Library Media Specialist, Sullivan’s Island Elementary (Charleston County School District)
- Ms. Suzanne Baxley, Teacher, Discovery School (Lancaster County School District)

Whittemore noted that 29 schools had at least 70 percent of their student population participating in the contest, which required students to read six books. The schools meeting this goal include:

Baron Dekalb Elementary (Kershaw County School District)
Belle Hall Elementary (Charleston County School District)
Berkeley Intermediate (Berkeley County School District)
Bethany Elementary (York County School District Two - Clover)
Bethel Elementary (Greenville County School District)
Bethel Elementary (York County School District Two - Clover)
Buford Middle (Lancaster County School District)
Charles Pinckney Elementary (Charleston County School District)
Charleston Development Academy (Charleston County School District)
Cheraw Primary (Chesterfield County School District)
*Chester Park Elementary School of Literacy through Technology
(Chester County School District)*
Chesterfield-Ruby Middle (Chesterfield County School District)
Doby's Mill Elementary (Kershaw County School District)
Ebenezer Avenue Elementary (York County School District Three - Rock Hill)
Fennell Elementary (Hampton County School District One)
Hendersonville Elementary (Colleton County School District)
Iva Elementary (Anderson County School District Three)
Jennie Moore Elementary (Charleston County School District)
Jonesville Elementary (Union County School District)
Lake Murray Elementary (Lexington County School District One)
Newberry Elementary (Newberry County School District)
Oakdale Elementary (York County School District Three – Rock Hill)
Pine Street Elementary (Spartanburg County School District Seven)
Pinecrest Elementary (Greenwood County School District 50)
Round Top Elementary (Richland County School District Two)
SC School For Blind Elementary-Middle (SC School for the Deaf & Blind)
Sue Cleveland Elementary (Greenville County School District)
The Palmetto School at the Children's Attention Home
Varnville Elementary (Hampton County School District One)

The SC Education Oversight Committee is an independent, non-partisan group made up of 18 educators, business persons, and elected leaders. Created in 1998, the committee is dedicated to reporting facts, measuring change, and promoting progress within South Carolina's education system.