

# **SUMMER READING PROGRAM STUDY**

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## ***OMB Clearance Request— Appendix B***

### ***SUPPORTING MATERIALS***

**February 2009**

**PREPARED FOR:**

Institute of Education Sciences  
United States Department of Education  
Contract No. ED-06-CO-0017

**PREPARED BY:**

Regional Educational Laboratory—Southwest  
Edvance Research, Inc.  
9901 IH-10 West, Suite 700  
San Antonio, Texas 78230  
(210) 558-1902  
(210) 558-1075 (fax)



DATE

Name, Title

District Name

Street Address

City, State Zip Code

Dear Dr. XXX,

The Regional Education Laboratory – Southwest (REL Southwest) run by Edvance Research, under the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education, is embarking on an exciting new research study. We are currently in the process of recruiting districts to participate in a **2009 Voluntary Summer Reading Program (SRP) study for low-income, struggling readers** between their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade years. Participation in this program is **absolutely free** for qualified districts.

Potential benefits of the SRP include the following:

- Opportunity for students to **offset summer learning loss**
- Opportunity to **increase students' reading comprehension**
- **Eight free books** provided to each participating student
- **Research evidence** based on student performance
- Publicity and recognition for district as an **elite research partner**

Enclosed is a 1-page flyer that provides more details about our SRP. Also, feel free to log on to our website at <http://www.edvanceresearch.com/> and click on “Research Partnerships/Opportunities” on the left side of the page to learn more about this program and REL Southwest.

I would very much appreciate an opportunity to talk with you about this study to discuss the benefits of your district's possible participation in this SRP. Participation is limited, so if you are interested, please contact me at (210) 558-4122 or [llogan@edvanceresearch.com](mailto:llogan@edvanceresearch.com) so that we can further discuss the SRP, determine your district's eligibility, and reserve your spot in this important program.

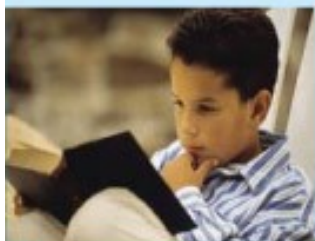
Best regards,

Laural Logan-Fain, Ph.D.  
Market Research Director/Recruitment  
REL Southwest at Edvance Research, Inc.  
9901 IH-10 West, Suite 700  
San Antonio, TX 78230-2252  
(210) 558-4122

Responses to this data collection will be used only for statistical purposes. The reports prepared for this study will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with a specific district or individual. We will not provide information that identifies you or your district to anyone outside the study team, except as required by law.

# Want to offset summer learning loss and increase student reading comprehension?

Participate in a voluntary  
*Summer Reading Program for Low-Income Students* study  
funded by the U.S. Department of Education/REL Southwest.



Voluntary summer reading programs are often used to offset the summer learning loss that occurs primarily among low-income students. The potential benefits of the program may be greater if the reading material matches student ability. This study will evaluate the impact that a Lexile-based voluntary summer reading program has on curtailing the summer learning loss occurring among low-income students between their 3rd and 4th grade years.

### Who is eligible to participate?

- Low-income students between the 3rd and 4th grade years.

### Who is conducting the study?

- The study is being conducted by the Regional Educational Laboratory Southwest (REL Southwest) under the U.S. Department of Education/ Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

### What is the cost for participating in the study?

- There are **no costs** for the participating district and students.
- The study is **completely free** and is being funded by REL Southwest.

### When will the study begin?

- Spring/summer 2009

### Will the information be kept private?

- Yes. Responses to this data collection will be used for statistical purposes.
- The reports prepared for this study will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with a specific district or individual.
- We will not provide information that identifies you or your district to anyone outside the study team, except as required by law.

### What are the benefits of participating in the study?

- Opportunity for students to offset summer learning loss
- Opportunity to increase students' reading comprehension
- 8 free books provided to each participating student
- Research evidence based on student performance
- Publicity and recognition for district as an elite research partner

### How will the study work?

- Students will be randomly assigned (which is like flipping a coin) to either a treatment or a control group.
- Treatment students will be mailed approximately 8 books over the summer months that are aimed at their reading ability and interests. Participating students will:
  - choose their books (based on Lexile scores, which is a measure of reading ability)
  - read silently on their own
  - receive little or no feedback on the selection of their books
- Control students will receive 8 books after the summer months
- Student test scores will be examined, at the end of the study, to determine the impact that the voluntary summer reading program may have on reading comprehension.



### What type of books will students read?

Students will be sent books based on their interests and Lexile scores. Students can select two or more of the following categories of interest (both fiction and non-fiction).

Adventure  
Animals & Nature  
Arts  
Family & Child  
Fantasy & Folktales  
Graphic Novels & Comics  
History  
Humor & Games  
Literature  
Mystery  
People & Places  
Performing Arts  
Reference & Language  
Science  
Etc.

### Who do I contact to learn more?

Laural Logan-Fain, Ph.D.  
Manager of Recruitment  
REL Southwest  
9901 IH-West, Suite 700  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 558-4122

or Toll Free at  
(877) 338-2623 (ext. 4122)  
llogan@edvanceresearch.com



**DATE**

Laural Logan-Fain, Ph.D.  
Director of Market Research/Manager of Recruitment  
REL Southwest at Edvance Research  
9901 IH-10 West, Suite 700  
San Antonio, TX 78230

Dear Dr. Logan-Fain,

Formal permission is granted to REL Southwest at Edvance Research to conduct the following study in **XXX** Independent School District for the 2009/10 school year: *Summer Reading Program for Low-Income Students (SRP)*.

We look forward to working with REL Southwest on this significant research initiative. The following xx schools will be participating in this project:

School Name  
School Name  
School Name  
School Name

School Name  
School Name  
School Name  
School Name

Our district liaison throughout the duration of the study will be **DISTRICT CONTACT NAME & TITLE**. **DISTRICT CONTACT NAME** can be reached at **(000) 000-0000** or by email at [administratorXX@DISTRICTISD.org](mailto:administratorXX@DISTRICTISD.org).

Sincerely,

**DISTRICT CONTACT NAME**  
**TITLE**  
**DISTRICT NAME**  
**STREET**  
**CITY, STATE, ZIP**

Responses to this data collection will be used only for statistical purposes. The reports prepared for this study will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with a specific district or individual. We will not provide information that identifies you or your district to anyone outside the study team, except as required by law.

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