

The Holyoke Early Literacy Initiative wins a

GATEWAY CITIES *Innovation Award*

MassINC is an independent think tank using non-partisan research, civic journalism and public forums to stimulate debate and shape public policy.



Thank you to all of our HELI Parents, HELI Partners and HELI School Leaders! We are receiving an award that recognizes our strategic, city-wide effort to ensure that all children are proficient readers by the end of grade three.

As you know, the success of our earliest readers depends on the work of our SCHOOLS, PARENTS and COMMUNITY MEMBERS. We are all being asked to do something differently this year to ensure that we are all moving in the same direction.

Holyoke Public Schools are:

1. Executing an Accelerated Improvement Plan that puts improved early literacy with an intense focus on English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities at the center.
2. Ensuring that individual schools servicing children in pre-K to 3rd grade are promoting HELI through the HELI Parent Campaign, HELI Parent Education Workshops and the 1st grade HELI Home Visiting Program.

HELI Parents of 0-8 aged kids are:

1. Doing "ONE THING A DAY" from Holyoke's "On Track for Literacy" indicators to support their child's literacy development.
2. Committing to make sure their child attends school every day!

HELI Partnering organizations are:

1. Providing an early literacy program, support or service (*with children directly or with adults who work with children- either as parents, teachers or tutors*)
2. Engaging in a year-long self-study through the "Full Partnership Learning Community" to strengthen ONE aspect of their early literacy program design or delivery.
3. Participating in city-wide workgroups to collectively develop strategies to align forces around FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT, ATTENDANCE & KINDERGARTEN READINESS.

Thanks to ALL who are working together to ensure that Holyoke's children are reading proficiently by grade 3.