



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### DPS, PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCE COMMUNITY READING CHALLENGE

On Thursday, Danville Public Schools (DPS) and the Ruby B. Archie Public Library announced their partnership on a reading initiative for the city.

The Ruby B. Archie Passport to Reading Challenge calls for Danville citizens to read and log one million books by the end of 2023. The challenge, open to every Danville citizen, is an effort to build a culture of reading beyond the classroom.

“We know that strong reading skills are a very important foundation for young children,” DPS Superintendent Dr. Angela Hairston said. “By creating and promoting a culture of reading for everyone, our students and our community will see the benefits.”

According to the International Literacy Association (ILA), reading builds childrens’ ability to think creatively and critically, expands their knowledge base, and builds their empathy and compassion for others. In addition, the ILA states that children need to have supportive environments and resources for their reading to become lifelong readers.

The challenge was named after Ruby Batts Archie, who dedicated 37 years to teaching students at Danville Public Schools. She taught at both Langston and George Washington High Schools. She also served on Danville City Council for 16 years and as mayor from 1998-2000, the only woman to have done so. The city renamed its public library in her honor in 2018.



“It is our absolute pleasure to be a part of this community challenge and want to thank Dr. Hairston for bringing this vision to life,” Ruby B. Archie Public Library Director Russell Carter said. “As a parent myself, there is nothing that brings me greater joy than sharing a new adventure with my two boys. I hope everyone will take the opportunity to pick up a book and explore new worlds and new ideas.”

Through this challenge, participants will be able to log each book they read electronically via Beanstack, a reading challenge platform. Students at Danville Public Schools will use their existing accounts to log their books, while community members will be able to sign up for an account at [readdanvilleva.beanstack.org](http://readdanvilleva.beanstack.org) and join the challenge. Beanstack also has a mobile app that participants can use to log their books.

Readers are eligible to earn badges of recognition, as well as win prizes and take part in incentives, as they read.

“We hope that our community takes this challenge and knocks it out of the park,” Hairston said. “It is our wish to build a community of readers.”