



## “MY OWN BOOK”

### LITERACY INITIATIVE FOR AIKEN COUNTY ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Public Education Partners (PEP), a 501(c)(3), seeks a donation to support our literacy program to foster the love of reading for third graders in Aiken County Public Elementary Schools.

PEP is Aiken’s only non-profit organization solely focused on improving the Aiken County Public Schools by actively engaging the resources of our communities. We have several innovative programs for the 2023 – 2024 school year to support teachers and students.

Reading levels in Aiken County Elementary Public Schools indicate a severe literacy problem with only 39% of elementary school children meeting or exceeding requirements, below the statewide average of 43%. PEP is launching a new initiative to help improve the literacy of elementary school students. We are teaming with the elementary school media specialists in Aiken County to provide funds so ALL third grade students in Aiken County can purchase a book of *their choice* at their school’s Book Fair. We are starting the program at a few schools in November, with others to follow in 2024.

PEP has already raised \$12,000 of the \$21,000 needed to fully fund this program. We can meet our goal of putting a book in the hands of all third graders if your organization provides a donation of at least \$1,000 – which will fund one of Aiken’s 21 Elementary schools. If funding allows, we will expand the program to include fifth graders. The program focus is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (and potentially 5<sup>th</sup>) graders since they take the SC State Proficiency Test.

PEP appreciates your consideration of a sponsorship this year. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Marks, Board Chair, at 914-318-7306 or [nancymarks233@gmail.com](mailto:nancymarks233@gmail.com).

Respectfully,

Nancy Marks  
Board Chair

Attached:

- “My Own Book” program description
- Sponsorship Levels

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Public Education Partners ♦ P.O. Box 3821 ♦ Aiken, SC 29802-3821  
(803)649-9040 ♦ [www.pepaiken.org](http://www.pepaiken.org)

## **“MY OWN BOOK”**

### *LITERACY INITIATIVE FOR AIKEN COUNTY ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS*

The vast majority of elementary school children in the Aiken Public School system are considered to be living in poverty and are eligible to receive free lunch (PIP – Pupils In Poverty). Over half of the public elementary schools within Aiken County have 70% of their students designated as PIP.

Considering these poverty levels in the Aiken schools, it is understandable that currently few students are able to participate in their school Book Fairs. Research shows that a love for reading can be fostered by students having more ownership of their books and reading by being able to take home and keep their own book.

This program will provide **each** third grade student with a \$12 voucher to be used to purchase a book of their choice at their school’s Book Fair. In addition, this program “*Make Book Fairs Fair*” by removing the “stigma” and feeling of inequity between those students who have the financial means to purchase books at the book fairs and those who do not have the resources.

PEP is working closely with the media specialists in each school to ensure that the initiative is well communicated and executed. As an added benefit, media specialists receive a credit from the book companies based upon the total value of the books sold. They will receive the full \$12, regardless of how much the child spends. With the increased credit, the media specialists will be able to purchase more books for the library.



## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

*All donations to this program will be used to support the "My Own Book" Program*

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Amount:** [each student receives a \$12 voucher]

\_\_\_\_\_ **Phi Beta Kappa:** \$42,000+ All 3rd & 5th graders in ALL 21 Aiken County Public Schools

\_\_\_\_\_ **Summa Cum Laude:** \$21,000+ All 3rd graders in ALL 21 Aiken County Elementary Schools

\_\_\_\_\_ **Magna Cum Laude:** \$10,000+ All 3rd graders in 10 Aiken County Public schools

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cum Laude:** \$ 5,000+ All 3rd graders in 5 Aiken County Public schools

\_\_\_\_\_ **High Honors:** \$ 1,000+ All 3rd graders in 1 Aiken County Public schools

\_\_\_\_\_ **Honors:** \$ 500+ Funds one-half of 3rd graders in 1 Aiken Public school

**For All Sponsorship Levels:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **We would like our employees to participate in the Classroom and/or Book Fair**

**Mail check and sponsor page to:**

Public Education Partners  
P.O. Box 3821  
Aiken, SC 29802-3821

**Questions:**

Nancy Marks  
914-318-7306  
Nancymarks233@gmail.com

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