



PRESS RELEASE, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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RUSD to Partner with Footsteps2Brilliance and The White House Program on “Educational Excellence for Hispanics” Literacy Initiative

RIALTO – They say that a child who knows how to read today, can run the world tomorrow. With this mindset in motion, an energetic literacy campaign is the pathway that the Rialto Unified School District officially committed to by partnering with the nationally renowned *Footsteps2Brilliance*.

Footsteps2Brilliance provides an early learning solution that helps children become proficient readers by the third grade and creates a turnkey, citywide literacy solution.

The program allows school districts, such as Rialto Unified School District, to cost effectively scale award-winning pre-K through 3rd grade literacy curriculum to every family within their jurisdiction, without families spending additional monies on hardware, infrastructure, or maintenance. Footsteps2Brilliance affords parents and guardians with the tools that they need to be able to share responsibility for their children’s academic success.

In November, the District signed a contract to help RUSD students.

“Literacy is the most powerful tool for children,” said RUSD Superintendent, Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila, “According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) literacy rates have improved within five decades; however, there are still over 755 million illiterate adults in the world. This means that the earlier we invest in literacy, the better chances our young students have in our society as adults.”

Mrs. Jasmin Valenzuela, RUSD’s Lead Academic Agent, who oversees the District’s Literacy Initiative, added, “I am exceptionally thrilled that early literacy and literacy across the curriculum is one of the pillars and focus areas of the Superintendent for Rialto Unified School District. Literacy is the foundation necessary for nearly every type of learning—across all disciplines. Reading ability is a key predictor of life achievement, and today’s global economy requires today’s students to have far more advanced literacy skills than those required of any previous generation.”

TODAY'S SCHOLARS, TOMORROW'S LEADERS