



City of Brockton

BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Brockton Announces Early Learning Innovation Summit

City and community leaders will meet February 25th at the Brockton Public Library

Superintendent of Schools Kathleen Smith, JD and Mayor Bill Carpenter invite community partners and parents to an Early Learning Innovation Summit to discuss strategies for helping all Brockton children achieve reading proficiency by third grade. At the February 25th summit, Superintendent Smith and Mayor Carpenter will discuss their shared goals for expanding early childhood education opportunities for Brockton children. The two city leaders will also announce a coordinated effort to raise funds for a Model Innovation City initiative, which provides all families with access to innovative and interactive apps that promote early literacy.

The Early Learning Innovation Summit will take place Tuesday, February 25th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Brockton Public Library Multi-Purpose Room, 304 Main Street, Brockton, Massachusetts. City leaders will discuss partnering with *Footsteps2Brilliance, Inc.*, an early learning mobile technology platform, to provide a comprehensive curriculum of digital eBooks and apps to every family living within Brockton.

Research shows that the greatest disparity of knowledge among children is the vocabulary gap, the number of words a child knows from birth through third grade. On average, children from low-income families hear 30 million fewer words before the age of 4 than their more affluent peers.

“The Mayor, School Committee and I are committed to providing our youngest children with as many educational opportunities as possible. This initiative will truly be a collaborative program between government, community partners and parents, who will be actively engaged in helping their children learn new words and concepts,” said Superintendent Smith. “We believe that any tool that prepares students for school is a worthy endeavor, and we hope that the whole city embraces this exciting program.”

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www.brocktonpublicschools.com

Learn. Teach. Inspire. Achieve.

Footsteps2Brilliance is web-based learning experience that links schools and homes. Parents and teachers can track a child's progress, including new words, ability to recognize sounds and patterns, and tailor instruction and interventions accordingly. Once adopted by a community, the program is available for free download to anyone in that area code; the program is already in use in Malden and Revere, Massachusetts.

“Our children are growing up in a digital age, and programs that utilize technology – whether computers, tablets, or smartphones – are effective and engaging,” Mayor Carpenter said. “We are constantly looking for new ways to capture their imagination and get them excited about learning, and this program is one they can utilize at home with their families.”

Footsteps2Brilliance's leadership team is excited to work with Brockton, a gateway city 20 miles south of Boston.

“Successful readers experience 3,000 hours of pre-literacy training by the time they reach first grade. Children from less affluent families experience between 20 to 200 hours because they do not have equitable access to rich early literacy content. Brockton's city-wide early learning initiative will provide all parents within its jurisdiction with libraries of standards-based ebooks and learning games that they can access on the smart phones and tablets they already own. This will not only level the playing field, but also will help parents become their children's first teachers,” according to Ilene Rosenthal, CEO of *Footsteps2Brilliance®*, Inc.

About *Footsteps2Brilliance®*: *Footsteps2Brilliance®*, Inc. is the breakthrough early learning platform that accelerates early achievement by uniting the power of mobile gaming technology with the latest in cognitive research. *Footsteps2Brilliance®* provides enticing, interactive, 24/7 learning experiences that digitally link school and home to give students the edge they need for success in school today and the world tomorrow. www.footsteps2brilliance.com

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