

REVERE ADVOCATE

Revere to launch Citywide Early Learning Technology Initiative

Unveiling at city hall press conference on Monday, June 16

On Monday, June 16, Revere Superintendent Dr. Paul Dakin and Mayor Dan Rizzo will hold a press conference from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall (281 Broadway, Revere). They will unveil an innovative citywide early learning reading initiative using smart phones, tablets and computers.

Dakin and Rizzo are challenging all pre-k through third grade children to read one million words by the end of the summer. The city has partnered with Footsteps2Brilliance®, Inc., inventors of an early learning mobile technology platform that enables Revere to provide libraries of eBooks and educational games to every family with pre-k through third grade students who reside within the Revere zip code.

“There is no single strategy that offers a greater return on investment to Revere than providing early learners and their families with the tools ... to learn how to read proficiently by the third grade,” stated Dr. Dakin. “I have partnered with Footsteps2Brilliance because they offer a scaled, citywide, educational solution that I have not been able to find anywhere else. Through their platform, I can overnight send libraries of targeted eBooks and educational games to all the families within my jurisdiction, even before they formally enroll in kindergarten. This strategy aligns to my ultimate goal – making all Revere students college and career ready.”

“Education is an urban revitalization strategy,” said Rizzo. “If we look at the future of Revere’s economic potential, we realize that it hinges upon our ability to integrate our diverse and vibrant communities into the educational system at an early age. I commend Dr. Dakin’s foresight in creating a ubiquitous strategy that reaches beyond the four walls of the classroom and launches us into the 21st century.”

Ilene Rosenthal, CEO of Footsteps2Brilliance, stated, “A key issue that our nation faces today is how to get all children reading proficiently by the third grade. Successful readers are exposed to over 3,000 hours of pre-literacy training before first grade. Readers who struggle have been exposed to between 20 and 200 hours. By putting the tools needed into the hands of every family even before their children enter the public schools, Dr. Dakin is leveling the playing field for all Revere students. His leadership is a model for the nation.”

About Revere Public Schools: There are 7,100 students in 11 schools. The student body is diverse, with 41% white and 59% non-white; Hispanic is the largest minority population. The students include 52% from homes where English is their second language, and 78% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Revere High School graduates include 80% who go on to further education.

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. The organization 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. For more information, visit www.footsteps2brilliance.com.