



Project MORE Newsletter

Winter 2008

Greetings Project MORE Partners,

Happy New Year! The purpose of this newsletter is provide each Project MORE principal and coordinator with tools and updated information about volunteer reading mentoring for children with disabilities.

As of January 2009, Project MORE currently has 142 participating schools. This is an increase of 42 schools from the end of last year. Our latest partners are all 11 Worthington City elementary schools.

We recently received the 07/08 Project MORE end of the year report. According to BGSU's Center for Evaluation Services, historically, the 2007-2008 Project MORE findings have been one of the most successful year's results since the inception of the program. When comparing Project MORE (Reading-tutors) students' reading gains to those of students with the same disability and grade level at similar schools, Project MORE students consistently had significantly higher reading gains. These results are not only good news for students with disabilities, but will be very important when talking with legislators and other stakeholders for continued support. **"Project MORE is one of the few reading programs in the country that has evaluated whether their program works exclusively for students with disabilities and Title 1 students. For almost a decade, the evaluation results indicate the Project MORE students make significantly more reading gains than similar students that do not receive this intensive one-on-one reading mentoring intervention. These results have been found across grade-level (2-4), disability status, and Title 1 status."** Dr. Stacey Rychener, BGSU CES Lead Investigator.

We have begun planning for our 4th Annual Project MORE Conference and **we need your help!** This conference (offered at no cost for participating schools) will be held in May (location still to be determined) and we would like your input regarding how to make this conference valuable to you. The conference is in May for the following reasons: after grade level testing, end of year celebration, when location is available, funding goes first to school programs and residual funds for conference expenses. We would like for you to complete this before Tuesday, January 20th. Please click on the following link to give us feedback to help make this year's conference the best yet!

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228NNSWKM2X>

Finally, I am including the **2008 Regional Fall Meeting** break out sessions response summaries which included the following three topics: **1) How to engage parents with Project MORE, 2) Mentor recruitment success stories/ideas, and 3) How to sustain Project MORE without grant funds.** Clicking on the following link can access these fall networking summaries: <http://ohioprojectmore.org/fall-networking-summary.pdf>

Our purpose is to provide the support necessary to help you help your students with disabilities become better readers. Thank you in advance for completing the survey with your ideas on how to create an outstanding 2009 Project MORE Conference.

Yours in mentoring,

Amy Freeman
Project MORE Director