# READING COUNTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

August 2013

# Philosophy

Reading Counts is an innovative computerized learning information system that provides teachers with a creative means of **motivating** every student to dramatically increase reading fluency, comprehension, and motivation. Reading practice is essential to developing the critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities that ensure a lifelong love of reading and learning**. *Coffee County School System supports Reading Counts as a motivational reading program to ensure Destination Graduation for College, Career and Life. Student performance on Reading Counts is not factored into the student grading system.***

# Determination of Student Reading Level (consider the following)

1. Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) for all 3rd - 5th graders with no modifications
2. Teacher recommendation based on variety of data for students in grades K-2 (iRead screener, Dibels, and/or student interest).
3. Use IEP or IAP if applicable

# Classroom Procedures

1. Use programs such as iRead, SRI, and/or other data to assign range.
2. Assist students in setting individual goals.
3. Before 1st progress report student’s level will be determined & communicated to media sp., API, and parents.
4. In the interim period, students may accumulate points based on previous year’s reading level.
5. Special ed., Sect. 504, or LEP students who have been identified with reading problems will be *awarded* based on instructional level defined in IEP, IAP or by Language Assessment Battery.
6. The classroom teacher is responsible for monitoring the reading level of the books on which students test by examining student printouts at least monthly.
7. Media specialist will be responsible for RC assistance.

## Reading Counts Testing Protocol

1. All schools will use RC book titles/author to access tests.
2. Students may test only on full, unabridged versions of books.
3. Tests must be taken with a teacher, parapro, or media specialist present in the room.
4. Students will be allowed to take books with them to the computer (to support CCGPS standard practice).
5. Parents should not be permitted to observe students taking tests (with the exception of special activities like “Family Night at the Library”)
6. Students must be given ample opportunities to take RC tests during regular student school hours.
7. Students may not give or accept help with answering or reading RC test questions (teacher discretion on new or LEP students.)
8. Students are allowed to take quizzes up to 3 times. If a student scores 70 or below, he/she will be allowed to retake the quiz. After taking a quiz 2 times, the teacher has the option of printing out the test questions for the student to complete before taking the quiz a third time.
9. Kindergarten teachers should introduce the Reading Counts Program to students reading independently by reading/sharing books and then assisting students with tests as needed to help each student experience a successful introduction to the program.
10. Teachers in grades 1-5 should introduce the RC Program to students by reading/sharing books and then assisting students with tests as needed to help each student experience a successful introduction to the program.

# Incentive Guidelines

1. Literacy Coach will assist school media specialist in supporting and promoting Reading Counts as a motivational program.
2. Each school will set goals for recognition.
3. Each school will send parents information about Reading Counts at the beginning of each school year. This will include guidelines and individual school’s incentive system.
4. Students must maintain an average of 70% to qualify for RC incentives.