



PRESS RELEASE

Cox Communications delivers 3,600 free books to 600 Providence students to launch the Read to Succeed summer program

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PROVIDENCE, R.I., On Monday, May 22nd, Read to Succeed and Cox Communications delivered 3,600 free books to students at Bishop McVinney School, Community Preparatory School, Highlander Charter School, San Miguel School of Providence, and Sophia Academy to launch the 2023 summer reading program for 600 Providence students.

Read to Succeed, a unique literacy program that uses a \$1,000 college scholarship incentive to promote recreational reading over the summer, helps to prevent the summer learning loss while establishing a financial pathway to college.

“Cox Communications is essential to our ability to deliver so many books to our Providence partner schools and students so they may participate in our summer reading program. It is a substantial task to distribute 3,600 books to five schools, and Cox Communications volunteers are key to this special mission,” stated David Guertin, Executive Director of Read to Succeed.

Beginning at the home of Barbara Papitto, co-founder of Read to Succeed with her late husband Ralph Papitto, Cox Communications volunteers load 600 custom Read to Succeed book bags filled with six books each onto their trucks for their journey across Providence. Over the course of three hours, books are delivered to each school to be distributed to students before the last day of school.

Read to Succeed has awarded more than 25,000 free books, opened over 920 CollegeBound Saver accounts, and contributed over \$2.3 million in college scholarships to Providence students since 2008. Students select six books to read over the summer from a diverse book selection list developed by their teachers. After completing each book, students take an online comprehension test. Upon completing all six books and tests, students receive a \$1,000 scholarship in a CollegeBound Saver account, the state’s 529 tax advantage savings program. Read to Succeed was founded to encourage students to improve their reading skills over the summer, develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading, and create a pathway to college through scholarships earned at an early age. Students are able to participate every summer that they are enrolled at Read to Succeed’s partner schools, and can earn between \$4,000 and \$6,000 for college. The Papitto Foundation funds all administrative expenses so that 100% of charitable contributions to Read to Succeed support books and scholarships.

About Cox Communications

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through technology. The largest private broadband company in America, we proudly serve six and a half million homes and businesses across 18 states. We're dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that make each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

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