

# Read to Succeed



Read to Succeed was founded to encourage students **like you** to improve their reading skills over the summer and develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading. Read to Succeed provides its five partner schools with a book list selected by the teachers. You will select six books that you want to read over the summer. Read to Succeed purchases these books and delivers them to you in a Read to Succeed bookbag before summer vacation. After reading each book, you will take an online comprehension test through the Accelerated Reader Program. Access to the tests is provided by your school. Students who pass all six tests will be awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** in a Read to Succeed-sponsored Rhode Island CollegeBound Saver account, the state's 529 college savings program. Our goals are to:

1. Reduce or eliminate the summer learning loss by reading over the summer.
2. Promote recreational reading as a source of relaxation, learning, and fun.
3. Provide free books to you and your families to keep and share.
4. Create a pathway to college through scholarships at an early age.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How much does it cost to participate?

**It's free!** Read to Succeed provides the books, bookbag, certificate of completion, and a special medal at no cost to you, your parents, or your school. Read to Succeed also hosts an ice cream party for the grade with the highest completion rate.

### How many years can I participate?

Read to Succeed's Summer Reading Program is provided to five schools. The number of years you can participate depends on which school you attend:

<b>Bishop McVinney School:</b>	<b>Six years;</b> rising 3rd grade through rising 8th grade
<b>Community Preparatory School:</b>	<b>Five years;</b> rising 4th grade through rising 8th grade
<b>Highlander Charter School:</b>	<b>Six years;</b> rising 3rd grade through rising 6th grade in Providence; all 7th and 8th graders in Warren
<b>San Miguel School:</b>	<b>Four years;</b> rising 5th grade through rising 8th grade
<b>Sophia Academy:</b>	<b>Four years;</b> rising 5th grade through rising 8th grade

### Do I return the books when I am done?

Your Read to Succeed books are yours to keep. Past participants have created a personal library, saved the books to share with siblings or family members, or donated the books to their church or a local library for others to enjoy.

### How do I take my comprehension tests?

Once you complete each book, you should take the online comprehension test as soon as possible while your memory of the book is fresh. Your school will provide an email link to the Accelerated Reader program. If you encounter any

complications taking your test, contact your teacher or principal as soon as possible. Do not get discouraged. If you do not pass a test on your first try, they will also be able to reset the test for you to try again. Read to Succeed wants you to earn your \$1,000 scholarship, if you carefully read each book, you will pass the test.

### **How long do I have to read my six books?**

You have the entire summer to finish your six books. However, we encourage you to start reading right away and keep reading until you have finished. **Please do not wait until August to start your reading; you will most likely run out of time to read them all.** The program ends on the first day of school.

### **What happens when I am done?**

In October, Read to Succeed will host a scholarship ceremony at your school where you will receive a certificate of completion and a medal. Parents are encouraged to attend the ceremony to celebrate this achievement. We often have special guests join us to offer their congratulations to you. Read to Succeed will then open a savings account with the CollegeBound Saver program and deposit \$1,000 in your name!

### **Can Read to Succeed deposit my scholarship to an existing CollegeBound Saver account?**

#### **Can my family add to my account?**

Your Read to Succeed CollegeBound Saver account cannot be merged with an existing account and deposits from other sources cannot be made into this account. However, anyone can open a CollegeBound Saver account; there are tax benefits for doing so. Many families already have their own accounts or choose to open one. Here is a link for your convenience: <http://treasury.ri.gov/programs/collegebound-saver-529-plan/>

### **When I am ready to go to college how do I get my scholarship?**

When you are ready to enroll in the college of your choice, please email [megan@readtosucceedri.org](mailto:megan@readtosucceedri.org). There is a simple form and process to withdraw all, or a portion, of your scholarship funds when the time is right. Your scholarship funds will be transferred from CollegeBound Saver directly to your college.

### **Why is Read to Succeed important?**

Did you know that students who read books over the summer experience the equivalent of attending three years of summer school? Also, studies have shown that even a \$500 savings for college can increase the likelihood of college enrollment from 49% to 72%, a 23% increase.

### **How long has Read to Succeed been doing this?**

Read to Succeed was founded by Ralph and Barbara Papitto and the first Summer Reading Program took place in 2008. Since then, Read to Succeed has opened over 1,200 accounts that now have more than \$3.5 million in scholarships ready to help pay for college. Last year 613 students received 3,678 free books and 421 students completed the program. That means Read to Succeed awarded \$421,000 in scholarships last year alone. This year, Read to Succeed's goal is to provide 620 students with 3,720 free books! We want as many students as possible to read their books and earn their \$1,000! If you and your classmates complete your reading, we will award **\$620,000 in college scholarships this year!**

Our motto is *"Kids who read will succeed!"*



[readtosucceedri.org](http://readtosucceedri.org)