



**Statement at Press Conference at Parkview Elementary School upon
Delivery of 1758 Books!**

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Guilford Education Alliance

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Guilford Education Alliance is pleased to announce its contribution of books to Parkview Village Expressive Arts Magnet Elementary School. Through a partnership with the Barnes & Noble store at Friendly Center, over 600 elementary level books were contributed to Guilford Education Alliance for distribution to a school. Parkview was chosen because of the low ratio of books to students in its media center (20 books per child) and because of the high percentage of students eligible for Free Reduced Lunch (96.2%) and thus a great need for more books. These are books that will be distributed to individual classrooms for teachers to provide to students to take home to read, return them to school, and take another book home.

Through its Excelling in Public Education Task Force Guilford Education Alliance has focused on identifying ways the community can provide greater support for literacy proficiency for students in the elementary grades and providing books for students to have in their homes and book lending programs is one step toward addressing this need.

Access to books, especially in the home, can have a great impact on a child's ability to read. A recent study found that children living in poverty enter kindergarten having heard 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. This is because of access – children in higher income households have more access to print materials.

We know from research that greater access to books have positive effects on students' attitudes and motivations toward reading; emergent literacy skills; and reading performance, as measured by standardized assessments. Guilford Education Alliance is making the difference for these students by providing greater access to books!

Following the successful completion of our Guilford County students reading more than one million books in 2010, the Superintendent has challenged our students to read two million during 2011. The Superintendent has invited organizations to provide books for our children. Guilford Education Alliance with its partnership with Barnes & Noble is doing just that! And, Guilford Education Alliance invites other organizations to join with us in accepting the Superintendent's challenge to provide Two Million Books to our students in Guilford County Schools!