



Talking Points

REACH Basics

REACH is a literacy initiative for Kindergarten and First Grade designed to bolster reading achievement by engaging parents in at-home learning.

Laptops and online educational media extend the school day for anytime/anywhere learning, creating a teacher-parent-student partnership.

Laptop computers will be provided by Piqua City Schools to every Kindergarten and First Grade student.

Thirty two interactive, self-paced reading lessons are available online through PBS LearningMedia. PBS LearningMedia is a free digital media service of curriculum-targeted resources.

Each lesson is an extension of what students are learning in school, giving them a chance to practice through videos, interactives and games as well as activities and additional reading.

REACH is a five-year (2015-2020) initiative developed by Piqua City Schools, Milton-Union Exempted Village Schools and Franklin Monroe Schools.

School districts partnered with ThinkTV, public television in the Miami Valley, to produce the interactive REACH lessons.

REACH is supported by the Ohio Department of Education's Straight A Fund.

Student achievement will be evaluated at the end of each academic year. Wright State University Center for Evaluation Research will conduct the assessment.



Background

REACH Development

In 2014-15 Piqua City School District researched and piloted one-to-one learning programs and tested Chromebook devices with sixty Kindergarten and first grade students throughout the district.

ThinkTV worked with reading specialists and administrators at Piqua City Schools to develop REACH interactive lessons.

A group of students, parents and teachers piloted the devices and digital curriculum in the spring of 2015.

All Kindergarten and first grade teachers were trained on the devices and REACH modules for the 2015-2016 school year.

Implementation

Each year (2015-2020) Kindergarten and first grade parents will receive training on the use of the laptops and REACH interactive lessons.

Following training parents and students will receive a Chromebook laptop from the Piqua City School District.

Throughout the school year teachers will assign REACH lessons for students and their parents to work on at home.

Each lesson is designed to last approximately two weeks.

The final lesson of the year is designed to encourage continued reading and learning throughout the summer.