

**From:** Lee, Laurie  
**Sent time:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:49:55 AM  
**To:** john.parker@legis.state.ia.us  
**Cc:** Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>; ASKEIAS  
**Subject:** Reading First  
**Attachments:** senate presentation with no notes.PPT

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Dear Mr. Parker,

Thank you for your message to ASKEIAS regarding Reading First. Your message was forwarded to me for response. Reading First was a federal grant that was awarded to many states in the early 2000s to assist in improving literacy skills of students in our most struggling schools. The U.S. Department of Education ended federal support for Reading First after the 2008-09 school year. The link to Reading First archived information is [http://www.justreadflorida.com/reading\\_first.asp](http://www.justreadflorida.com/reading_first.asp).

The state of Florida provides state funding for school districts through a reading allocation within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to help districts to implement their K-12 Comprehensive Research-Based Reading Plan which is required by statute and submitted annually. Districts spend these funds on the salaries of reading teachers, coaches, professional development, texts for students, summer reading camps, etc. You may view the K-12 plans submitted by districts at [https://app1.fldoe.org/Reading\\_Plans/](https://app1.fldoe.org/Reading_Plans/). Click on "view district plans" and then choose a district from the dropdown menu on the page that appears on the screen. Additional information is included in the attached presentation that our executive director, Stuart Greenberg, recently shared with the Senate. I hope this is helpful to you.

If you would like further information regarding the possibility of implementing Florida policies in Iowa, Cari Miller's work with the Foundation for Excellence in Education involves assisting other states in adopting Florida's literacy policies. I have copied her on this message so that you may get in touch with her if you would like to do so. Cari was the director of Reading First in our office for several years and then served as our Deputy Director before moving on to work with the Foundation. She is very knowledgeable and is a valuable resource.

Thank you for all of your work and have a great day!

Laurie Lee  
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