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ALABAMA READING INITIATIVE CELEBRATES JUMPSTART’S READ FOR THE RECORD DAY

Montgomery, Ala. – The Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) is excited to take part in Jumpstart’s Read for the Record® (RFTR), a national campaign that was launched over a decade ago to address the educational inequities that leave too many children unprepared for kindergarten. On Thursday, October 27, 2016, millions of children and adults will gather to learn, laugh, and read this year’s campaign book, “The Bear Ate Your Sandwich” by Julia Sarcone-Roach, as part of the world’s largest shared reading experience.

ARI Program Coordinator Karen Porter said, “It is a delight for the ARI to be part of this national event and share this adorable story with some of our youngest learners.”

“We are keenly aware that not every child comes to school with a backpack full of wonderful literacy experiences, so for us, this is an opportunity to highlight the importance of early reading by asking grandparents, parents, caregivers, and communities to engage in efforts to support early reading and literacy in their community,” Porter said. “It continues to be the mission of the ARI to help schools, teachers, and parents close the gap in reading so that each child has an equal chance for success in school and beyond.”

The ARI regional staff will partner with principals and reading specialists to read to young children in 26 locations across the state:

- Attalla Elementary School, Attalla City
- Autaugaville High School, Autauga County
- Pine Grove Elementary School, Baldwin County

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- Barrett Elementary, Birmingham City
- Wylam K-8 School, Birmingham City
- Appalachian School, Blount County
- Verbena High School, Chilton County
- Cherokee Elementary School, Colbert County
- Austinville Elementary School, Decatur City
- Moon Lake School, DeKalb County
- Flomaton Elementary School, Escambia County
- Glen Oaks Elementary School, Fairfield City
- Samson Elementary School, Geneva County
- McDonnell Elementary School, Huntsville City
- Leeds Primary School, Leeds City
- Wacoochee Elementary School, Lee County
- Tanner High School, Limestone County
- Holloway Elementary School, Mobile County
- Iola Roberts Elementary School, Pell City
- Ridgecrest Elementary School, Phenix City
- Dixie Elementary School, Russell County
- Salter Elementary School, Talladega City
- Northington Elementary School, Tuscaloosa City
- Sumiton Elementary School, Walker County
- McIntosh Elementary School, Washington County
- J. E. Hobbs Elementary School, Wilcox County

About Jumpstart
Jumpstart is a national early education organization working toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. By participating in Jumpstart’s year-long program, children develop the language, literacy, and social-emotional skills they need to be ready for school, setting them on a path for lifelong success. Since 1993, Jumpstart has trained 45,000 college students and community volunteers to transform the lives of 95,000 preschool children nationwide. Learn more at jstart.org.

“Follow the Bear” on his journey in and out of classrooms across Alabama on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at #ReadfortheRecord, @ARIALSDE, and @AlabamaDeptoEd.

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