

News from Stamford Public Schools

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For immediate release

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**STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE CLASSROOM
LIBRARIES FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr and the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) announce the formation of Partners in Education (PIE), a community giving initiative designed to fund a variety of projects, beginning with comprehensive classroom libraries for the district's twelve elementary schools.

Borders Books of Stamford recently became the effort's charter contributor by donating more than 800 new books, valued at more than \$7,500. "The Stamford Public Education Foundation has done a great job in getting much needed resources into our schools," says Dr. Starr. "Our children and families are reaping the benefit of a lot of hard work on the part of SPEF. I'm very thankful for the investment that Borders is making in Stamford Public Schools. This generous gift will not only help us in the classroom, but will increase family literacy as well."

The broad range of titles and reading levels will allow students to choose high interest "just right" books (those that can be read with 95% accuracy) for use in the classroom and at home. The donation includes many Newberry winners and classic favorites, as well as books currently used for instruction and "read-alouds" in the classroom. Research indicates that students must have the right level of text for independent reading in order to be successful at practicing and developing comprehension skills and strategies.

PIE will enable local businesses to invest in Stamford's public schools by donating funds toward the various academic initiatives that SPEF facilitates. "These initiatives reflect the district's commitment to improving science, math and literacy," says Barbara Aronica-Buck, president of SPEF's Board of Directors. "Our unifying goal is to encourage and engage the support of Stamford's businesses in the health and success of our schools and students."

PIE is designed to give businesses of all sizes an opportunity to participate in the enhancement of Stamford Public Schools' literacy resources and programs. PIE will offer an automatic deduction program, making it easy for local business owners to make comfortable but steady contributions to the public schools.

The classroom library project will begin with grades K-2 in four schools: K.T. Murphy, Stark, Davenport Ridge, and Roxbury. As businesses sign on, the effort will include additional elementary schools and will expand to grades 3-5. There are nearly 300 elementary classrooms targeted to receive the libraries, each of which costs \$2,000 to establish.

The classroom library concept is based on extensive academic research which indicates that free, voluntary reading, both in and out of school, is strongly associated with gains in reading achievement. Additionally, research shows that the quantity of children's reading experience is directly related to their achievement levels.

To learn more about PIE and how to donate to the classroom library initiative, please email pie@spefct.org or call Barbara Aronica-Buck at (203) 406-0436.

Stamford Public Schools

The mission of Stamford Public Schools is to prepare each and every student for higher education and success in the 21st century. It is the fourth largest school district in Connecticut with approximately 15,000 students.

The Stamford Public Education Foundation

The mission of the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) is to improve student performance by facilitating, designing and evaluating high-impact academic partnership programs. SPEF matches the educational interests of businesses with the needs of individual schools and the school district to champion excellence in public education. SPEF works closely with, but independently from the school system.

Borders Group, Inc.

Founded in 1971 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Borders merged with Waldenbooks (formerly headquartered in Stamford) in 1992, the year the Borders Super Store at 1041 High Ridge Road opened its doors. More than 1,000 Borders, Borders Express, and Waldenbooks stores are located worldwide, with its mission to be a headquarters for knowledge, entertainment, literacy and community development. The Borders Business and Education Services program provides education resources, research and purchasing power to insure the most up-to-date titles and lowest costs to the community.

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