



First Book – Collaborating with States for Equity

First Book, a non-profit social enterprise, is dedicated to ensuring quality education for children in poverty. First Book’s model removes the barriers to equality in educational opportunity – by providing books and resources; generating innovative research; and elevating access to thought leaders to address critical training needs. All First Book programs are designed for maximum scalability and self-sufficiency at scale.

Collaboration in Action

First Book is proud to support state departments of education, and elected officials in reaching high-need schools and communities to ensure that children and educators have the resources they need to encourage a love of reading, and success in school and life.

Delaware Department of Education and Lt. Governor Hall Long

Care closets | Home libraries | English Language Learners

Since 2017, when former Governor John Carney launched the *First Book First State* initiative, First Book has supported educational equity in DE through numerous initiatives. The partnership has included community-based book distributions, the establishment of basic needs care closets in 45 high-need schools throughout the state, providing books and materials to children and families of essential workers participating in the childcare centers for essential employees during COVID-19, engaging English Language educators across the state and supporting schools/classrooms in building Spanish/English libraries with bilingual books. To-date, these collaborations have resulted in more than **65,500 books and resources to children in need across Delaware.**

Tennessee Department of Education

Reading events with First Lady Maria Lee | Books for curriculum pilot

First Book partnered with The TN Department of Education, in support of First Lady Maria Lee’s Tennessee Serves, an initiative to encourage adults and children to volunteer in their community. The First Lady hosted school visits and read-alouds, as well as book distributions. Additionally, The Department of Education provided book collections aligned with service and character development themes to schools across the state. **The collaboration resulted in more than 13,500 books to 40 schools statewide.**

Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

Professional development during COVID-related closures | Books for every pre-k child statewide

The AL Department of Early Childhood Education provided books to every pre-k child in the state to support continued learning during COVID-related closures. First Book provided title selection guidance for 2 books per pre-k child as well as additional books for younger siblings. **Together, First Book and the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education got 40,700 books to young children during COVID-related program closures.**

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