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## **News Release**

### ***Colorado Summer Reading Programs are More Popular Than Ever***

Ninety-seven percent of Colorado public libraries provide summer reading programs to children every year, giving them support and encouragement to read books for fun and pleasure during “school vacation” months.

Through its statewide Summer Reading Program, the Colorado State Library currently works to assist libraries with effective implementation of summer reading programs. The Colorado State Library also seeks to help all Colorado public libraries so patrons benefit from summer reading program experiences.

“Our summer reading program continues to be a valuable part of this community,” said Becky Astuto of the South Routt Library District. “Our patrons look forward to the summer theme and decorations and they come in asking for the summer schedules.”

From 1998 to 2007, 1.5 million participants registered for summer reading programs in Colorado public libraries. In 2007 alone, 204,700 participants signed up, a number that has been steadily increasing since the program’s inception.

“One child said the Summer Reading Program gave them the incentive they needed to get excited about reading,” said Patricia Chapman, Director of the Park County Public Library. “At the end of the program, there were two children from the same family that were reading at or above grade level.”

In 2003 Colorado joined the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a grassroots consortium which now includes 46 states and provides promotional materials, reading lists, storytime programs and reading incentive/giveaway materials around an annual theme. Together, consortium members select annual themes and work with vendors to produce related programmatic, promotional and incentive materials on behalf of the entire collaborative. The dramatic growth of CSLP is indicative of the value its products and services have to libraries nationwide.

To read a full report on the success of the Summer Reading Program, visit [www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/263\\_summer\\_reading.pdf](http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/263_summer_reading.pdf)

**For more information, contact** Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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