



**FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Danny Adkins, Superintendent**

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**Linda C. Gearheart, Board Chair Member - District 1**

**William Newsome, Jr., Vice-Chair - District 3**

**Dr. Chandra Varia, Member- District 2**

**Keith Smallwood, Member - District 4**

**Steve Slone, Member - District 5**

**Consent Agenda Item (Action Item):** Consider and approve the Imagination Library Agreement in collaboration with the Floyd County Public Library and the Floyd County Community Early Childhood Council.

**Applicable State or Regulations:** KRS 162.90 Powers and duties of the Local Board of Education.

**Fiscal/Budgetary Impact:** \$10,000 Title I-A Funds

**History/Background:** Dolly Parton launched her Imagination Library in 1995 because “seeds of dreams are found in books” and she wanted to foster a love of reading. Her foundation provides new, age-appropriate books to children from birth to 5 with the help of community champions. Her foundation provided along with the community champions 150 million books in 2020-one book to a child every two seconds. The books cost just a little over \$2.00 per book because of the quantity purchased through her foundation. Countries, states, counties, and communities/school districts can partner with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Foundation for the low cost of each book plus the postage to provide these books to children within their own communities to start their home libraries. We have an excellent opportunity to impact literacy, kindergarten readiness, and availability of books in each home. According to a study completed in West Tennessee by Urban Child Institute children who participated in the Imagination Library performed better on kindergarten readiness measures. A follow up study of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders found that former Imagination Library participants continued to score significantly higher on reading comprehension and vocabulary. Based on the same study, children who participated in the program were more likely to score higher on literary assessment, even into third grade. If a child is registered upon birth he/she would receive 60 books by age 5. Each book is mailed to the child’s home and arrives addressed to the child. The cost is \$25 per child per year or \$125 per child for the full five years. With the \$10,000 we can ensure that 400 children in Floyd County will receive 12 age appropriate books. Can you imagine as a child receiving a book each month addressed to you to help foster a love for reading and help the family have books to read to their child (ren)? Can you imagine the possibility of having a 60 book library in each child’s home in Floyd County prior to them walking into kindergarten? Can you imagine this impact on literacy in our community? Working in collaboration with the Floyd County Public Library, Save the Children, Floyd County Community Early Childhood Council and other donors we have an opportunity to impact the future and something far beyond our own lives for our children and families in Floyd County.

The numbers of children in the Floyd County community birth-five are:

1,505 ages Zero-2

1,012 ages 3-4

The Floyd County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex, or disability in employment, educational programs, or activities as set forth in Title IX & VI, and in Section 504.

894 ages 5-6

This data is provided to us annually by KCEWS and the Early Childhood Profiles by county for Kentucky at <https://kcews.ky.gov/Latest/ECP>.

The Floyd County Community Early Childhood Council Chair, staff of the Floyd County Public Library and secretary of early childhood department would work in collaboration to take care of the administrative operations. The school district would contribute a share of the expense of the books and shipping the books up to the \$10,000 annually. The Floyd County Public Library would contribute a share of the expense of the books and shipping the books up to the \$10,000 annually.

**Recommended Action:** Approve the agreement as presented.

**Contact Person(s):** Anna Whitaker Shepherd, Director (606-886-4555) Jonathan Campbell, Public Library Director (606-886-2981)

N/A  
Principal

Anna W Shepherd  
Director

Day Cary  
Superintendent

**Date:** 4-13-21

# **Floyd County Imagination Library**

## **Agreement**

This agreement is by and for the Floyd County Public Library (FCPL), Floyd County Public Schools (FCPS), and the Floyd County Early Childhood Council (FCECC) as evidenced by the signatures contained.

### **Terms**

The FCECC, with assistance from FCPL and FCPS staff, will setup an account with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) for the purpose of enrolling the children of Floyd county who are under five in the Imagination Library program. The FCECC will be the point of contact with DPIL for the purposes of billing and administration, with assistance being provided for administration by employees of FCPL and FCPS staff.

The funding for the program will come first from solicited donations and grant funding. Any amount that is remaining FCPL and FCPS both agree to provide up to \$10,000 annually to help fund the program. If the amount unfunded is under \$20,000 then FCPL and FCPS will split the cost, up to the \$10,000 annually provided for each entity.

Any signatory to this agreement may withdraw from it with twelve (12) months written notice to the other signees.

Floyd County Board of Education Signee(s):

	Board Chair		Date
	Superintendent		Date

Floyd County Public Library Signee(s):

		Date
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Floyd County Early Childhood Council Signee(s):

		Date
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