

# All Rockets Read Program

**Anna Local School District**

**Anna, OH | Shelby County**

## Initiative Type(s):

Mental health services

## Community Partner(s):

Community library; Village improvement group

## Description of Initiative:

The All Rockets Read Program is a district-wide initiative aimed at improving school culture and mental health awareness. Each year, the Anna Local School District community comes together to select a mental health theme to focus on and a books that represent that theme. Then, all K-12 students and staff receive a copy of the book selected for their grade level. The books are read during the school day and community activities are planned in conjunction with the books and the mental health theme throughout the school year. Activities include speakers, bulletin boards, break off activities, themed weeks, classroom activities in both English Language Arts (ELA) and non-ELA classrooms and a writing contest.

## Initiative Benefits:

Anna Local School District sees many benefits from the All Rockets Read program. Beyond improving literacy, the program educates, empowers and excites students and staff, while focusing on character development, mental health awareness and support and current issues facing the community. Previous themes for the program include perseverance, embracing differences, "be your best you" and friendship. This initiative gives teachers and school counselors an avenue for important conversations about mental health and social-emotional learning. This work is supported by local organizations that provide support and plan activities around the All Rockets Read theme. For example, the Anna Community Branch Library has sponsored book walks at the local park, themed interactive movie experiences and the Village of Anna Improvement Group has sponsored a day of activities for families at the local park. This initiative goes beyond the classroom walls and engages families and community partners around a mental health theme, which improves school climate, family engagement and raises awareness for mental health on a larger scale.

## Essential Staff and Partners:

The All Rockets Read Committee members are essential to the planning of this initiative. Additionally, external partners like Anna Community Branch Library and the Village of Anna Improvement Group assist program leaders by creating events for the community that are in line with the yearly theme. This increases community awareness and support.

## Action Steps to Get Started:

To decide the theme and books for the year, Anna Local School District convenes a committee of students, staff, and teachers to discuss potential themes and select the appropriate books for each grade level. After selecting this theme, committee members and other staff work with external partners to create community activities.

## For More Information:

Heather Wuebker  
hwuebker@annaschools.org

**NOTE: Student Wellness and Success Funds were not used for this initiative.**