

# CLINTON DAILY NEWS

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## *Free online education program slated*

The Clinton Public Schools have entered into a contract for a breakthrough early learning online program called "Footsteps2Brilliance." All residents of Clinton will soon have access to Footsteps at no cost to the children's families.

Footsteps' Academic Language Program for Students consists of more than 1,000 animated books, songs and educational games in English and Spanish. In addition, there is a non-fiction series

featuring 26 alphabet books and related educational games.

On Friday, Aug. 7, Supt. Kevin Hime and Footsteps2Brilliance Chief Operating Officer Eugene Narciso will kick off the citywide early learning initiative.

"In Clinton Public Schools, 35 percent of our students enter as English language learners (ELL) and in the United States, 46 percent of children enter kindergarten at risk of failure because

they lack the basic vocabulary and reading readiness skills research has shown can be critical to school success," said Supt. Kevin Hime.

"This can be a particularly effective tool for our young English learners. In repeated studies it has been shown that up to 88 percent of students who used the Footsteps2Brilliance curriculum were at

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## **FOOTSTEPS:** *Closing gap*

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grade level by the end of kindergarten, compared to 59 percent of students at the beginning of the year."

While this online program is typically available to parents and school districts for a fee, the Model Innovation City is a city-wide license provided at no charge with equal access to all residents of Clinton. This is the first city-wide offering of this award-winning program in the State of Oklahoma.

Asst. Supt. Tyler Bridges said of the program, "Clinton Schools have been searching for a viable solution to provide all students and their families with digital apps that will help to prepare them for school. "We feel that since the

majority of parents own mobile devices Footsteps is an innovative way to reach parents through devices they already own and to connect school and home. The school board believes that providing Footsteps is a worthwhile investment and will help meet our goal of closing the achievement gap in our local schools."

Footsteps early learning apps can be downloaded to any computer, tablet or a mobile device.

As a web-based program, children will be able to access the program both in their classrooms and at home. This fall, Clinton Public Schools will be reaching out to the parents of Clinton children to help in offering support and training in using Footsteps with their children.