

MARK R. WARNER
VIRGINIA



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
May 27, 2015

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to Manassas City Public Schools in partnership with Footsteps2Brilliance upon your decision to implement programming that will increase literacy for all four-year-olds in Manassas City.

Educating the youth of America is both exciting and challenging. This event celebrates the start of a transformative program for pre-k age children in Manassas City. This collaboration emphasizes the importance of community partnerships and how they positively contribute to the quality of life in a community.

The shared goal of Manassas City Public Schools and Footsteps2Brilliance is to accelerate early learning and close the literacy achievement gap among Virginia's students. I am supportive of such early childhood education programs that have demonstrated an ability to improve language and cognitive development. As the United States Senate moves forward with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), I have worked to include language in the bill that ensures Federal funds can be allocated for early childhood education. Students must be equipped at a young age with the skills they will need to have a successful future.

On this important occasion, I am very pleased to join with your schools and community in wishing you the best for a successful future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner".

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator