

Dear Education Leaders:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education's annual Reading Institute will be held July 19-21, 2010, in Anaheim, California. The Reading Institute is designed to expand and enrich the knowledge base and professional expertise of reading professionals and educational leaders. This year's Institute will focus on effective teaching and learning from birth through adolescence, including the topics of comprehension and vocabulary as well as other essential elements of teaching and learning to read. As always, the Institute will showcase presenters with national expertise in reading instruction. In addition, attendees will hear from State and local leaders who are developing comprehensive reading initiatives that serve children from birth through adolescence.

Recognizing that the road to college and career readiness begins at birth, this year at the Reading Institute the Department is collaborating with the National Institute for Literacy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to offer an early learning and development strand focused on birth through third grade. The years prior to kindergarten are critical in shaping a child's foundation for later school success. Research demonstrates that learning begins at birth and that high-quality early learning programs help children arrive in kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life. The early learning strand will provide information on developmentally appropriate practices in language and literacy, and focus on planning and building comprehensive early learning systems and infrastructures.

The Department is committed to effective literacy instruction developed through comprehensive, standards-based reform. The Reading Institute demonstrates that commitment. This event has no registration fee and is open to all who work in the area of literacy instruction, including teachers of reading, reading coaches and specialists, reading program administrators, State and district officials, and other stakeholders in early learning and development. For more information and registration, see <http://www.mikogroup.com/2010readinginstitute>.

I encourage you to join your fellow educators from around the country at the Department's 2010 Reading Institute and to share this information with others who may be interested.

Sincerely,

/s/

Arne Duncan