



## **Columbus library to help third-graders improve reading scores**

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By Catherine Candisky

Ohio's new reading law has triggered a community-wide effort to help the more than half of third-graders in Columbus schools at risk of being held back next year if they don't improve their scores on the state reading test.

Teachers and school administrators are working with parents, community volunteers, public libraries and others to improve student literacy.

"It's all hands on deck," Alison Circle, chief customer-experience officer for Columbus Metropolitan Library, said yesterday during a lunchtime panel at the Columbus Metropolitan Club.

"This whole third-grade reading thing has ignited our efforts in a way and collaboration with the schools ... We have been doing all kinds of things on a pace we've never done before."

Circle announced that beginning next fall, the library will bring books each month to third-grade classrooms in the Columbus school district, allowing students to check them out and return them the next month. The program is similar to one the library piloted this year in Groveport-Madison schools.

The library also has hired 20 people who will work after school at area libraries to encourage students and help them with reading.

"We are changing our approach on how we serve and deal with customers," Circle said. "We are removing barriers to serving these kids. If you can't get to us, we get to you."

### **Article continued here:**

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/04/10/library-cracks-the-books-for-third-graders.html>

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