March 14, 2016

Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to speak to you about the importance of sustaining the funding for Lexia Core Reading initiative.

I am Carrie Sowers, Director of Atchison Child Care Association. I have been an early childhood educator for over 30 years. Our child care center was founded and began in 1968.

Working directly with children over the years, I know the importance of early detection, intervention, support and progress monitoring. Our school family was asked to pilot Lexia Core 5 reading initiative in 2010. I could not believe how fast the children began to learn, get excited about being rhyming, phonics, fluency, vocabulary. Our local school district brought Lexia reading initiative in in 2015 and are astounded by the results.

The piece I like most is it identifies those children who are struggling and gives immediate solutions and actions to help that particular child. It could be a student action plan with celebrations, work on the specific skill the student is struggling with, skill builders and more. Besides helping the struggling child, it challenges the students who already excel. The sky is the limit! It's a win win for all.

We always say we want what's best for children. We have found something that is best for children. It is Lexia Reading initiative. Lexia has leveled the language playing field by identifying and creating ways for all children to begin to learn. Help me to understand how this proven program could not be funded? If we truly want what's best for all children, then please leave the funding in place.

Carrie Sowers