



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Gov. Garcia announces One Book 4 Colorado

DENVER — Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012 — Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia today announced One Book 4 Colorado, an effort to provide a new book to every four year old in Colorado while simultaneously supporting parents as their child's first teacher.

“Something as simple as putting a book in the hand of a young child can inspire a love of reading and help that child develop into a life-long learner,” said Garcia. “By partnering with Reach Out and Read Colorado and Colorado State Library we are able to support parents in making sure that all children are school-ready on the very first day they walk into a classroom.”

One Book 4 Colorado is the result of collaboration between Reach Out and Read, Colorado State Library, public libraries, the private sector, and the foundation community. It is modeled after the successful Preschool One Book One Denver program originated by the Denver Preschool Program.

More than 70,000 copies of the same book will be distributed to children across Colorado at local library events and at Reach Out and Read clinics and doctors' offices. The book will be available in both English and Spanish and will be accessible to children with special needs. A statewide book distribution and family support events will take place April 18-29, coinciding with Preschool One Book, One Denver and Week of the Young Child.

For more information about One Book 4 Colorado, visit <http://www.onebook4colorado.org/>.

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About Reach Out and Read Colorado

Reach Out and Read Colorado is an evidence-based nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud. Reach Out and Read Colorado builds on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers to develop critical early reading skills in children, beginning at 6 months of age. The more than 84,000 children served annually by Reach Out and Read Colorado read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten better prepared to succeed, with larger vocabularies, stronger language skills, and a six-month developmental edge over their peers.

Reach Out and Read Colorado doctors and nurses distribute 145,000 books to children at 184 pediatric practices, hospitals, clinics, and health centers in 48 of Colorado's 64 counties, with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities.

For more information, please visit www.reachoutandreadco.org or call 303-623-3800.

About Colorado State Library

The Colorado State Library, a division of the Colorado Department of Education, provides leadership and expertise in developing library-related policies, activities, and services for school, public, academic, and special libraries. Through an advisory board, Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy and public libraries, the State Library promotes early literacy to parents, children, and child care providers throughout Colorado.

About Denver Preschool Program

The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) is the result of a voter approved initiative to provide tuition credits for parents and quality improvement resources to preschools. DPP is open and voluntary for all Denver children the year before they are eligible for kindergarten. A Denver family may use the tuition credit with any preschool provider who is licensed by the state and enrolled with the Denver Preschool Program, regardless of where that preschool is located. Preschool One Book, One Denver is a city-wide book club designed to increase visibility of the importance of and love for reading with young children.