

Galen Cole Family Foundation Grants

The Galen Cole Family Foundation provides grants to schools in Maine to provide Reading Recovery training and professional development.

Reading Recovery is an early intervention, prevention initiative for first-grade students experiencing difficulty reading and writing. A trained teacher works one-on-one with students for 30 minutes weekdays for 12 to 20 weeks to help them attain grade-level proficiency.

Under the leadership of Mary Rosser, director of the University Training Center for Reading Recovery, the University of Maine provides instruction for Reading Recovery teacher leaders around the state. In Maine, nearly 200 trained Reading Recovery teachers are providing early intervention to 5,000 first-graders. Since its inception over 20 years ago in Maine, more than 32,400 youth have benefited from the initiative.

It is broadly recognized that teacher quality is the single-best predictor of student learning. Thus, the support of the Galen Cole Family Foundation for teacher training and professional development directly influences the quality of teaching that children receive and ensures continued success for children, according to the “Impact of Galen Cole Family Foundation Funding for Reading Recovery 2001–2012 Report.”

In order to accept this grant, we are required to visit the Cole Transportation Museum in Bangor with a busload of 6-8 graders from the RSU 24 district. Over the last nearly 20 years, the Cole Land Transportation Museum has forged a close relationship with scores of teachers throughout Maine, helping them educate school children about the pioneers who created the state’s roads and railways and about the veterans who fought and died to preserve our freedom.

Professional development in the Reading Recovery Continued Contact Training costs \$2000 per teacher. Three of the four elementary schools have been awarded funds that will allow such support for our Reading Recovery Teachers. Schools are asked not to apply for the grant if they have been recipients of the awards for four consecutive years. This is the case for Peninsula School. Although PNS did not receive the funding, they will still offer RR at the school and the training will be covered by budgeted local funds.

Last year, RSU 24 serviced thirty-two Reading Recovery students.

In May 2016, the Cole Family will hold a celebration at the Cole Museum in Bangor. They ask that our Reading Recovery teachers, principals and graduates of the Reading Recovery Program (and their family) attend the celebration.