

## U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education visits Pineville Elementary to see QCR in action



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### U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education visits Pineville Elementary to see Queen City Readers in action

Earlier this month, Read Charlotte joined CMS on a visit to Pineville Elementary by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten.

Read Charlotte partnered with Pineville Elementary in spring 2023 in a pilot of the Queen City Readers program. Read Charlotte developed Queen City Readers during the 2022-2023 school year in response to the increased need for literacy tutoring in our community due to the pandemic. It is based upon an evidence-based approach to teaching word reading skills that is widely used in the United Kingdom. Queen City Readers is designed as a turnkey resource that requires minimal training for community members to help kindergarten and first grade students strengthen foundational word reading skills. The vision is to enhance community capacity to provide one-on-one reading support that reinforces classroom reading instruction.

Pineville Elementary piloted Queen City Readers last spring. Deputy Secretary Marten held a roundtable discussion with school and district leaders, Read Charlotte staff, teachers, and students to learn more about the program during her visit, which was part of the Department of Education's Raise the Bar: Lead the World initiative. Pineville Elementary Principal Bobby French shared about Queen City Readers' positive impact on student outcomes last spring and the school's current recruitment efforts to start up the program again this school year. Read Charlotte staff shared about the early spread of Queen City Readers to local nonprofit organizations this fall.

Marten also visited two other CMS schools (Oaklawn Language Academy and Matthews Elementary School) during the trip, where she learned about instructional programs and initiatives specific to those schools.



### A big thank you to volunteers!

Speaking of Queen City Readers, we have LOTS of binders of tutoring materials ready to go, thanks to the work of some amazing volunteers this fall

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After a binder assembly event with volunteers from Vanguard in October, and one with volunteers from Truist in November, dozens of binders are ready for local kindergarteners and first-graders. We're excited to put them to use, and so grateful for the help from our community!



Vanguard volunteers



Truist volunteers

### Reading Hero: Kamieon Martin

Meet our latest Reading Hero, [Kamieon Martin!](#)

Kamieon has read to his two young sons daily since their births, and is always looking for new ways to engage them and inspire a love of reading. That commitment inspired his wife to nominate him as a Read Charlotte Reading Hero.

Read their story [here](#).



**Do you know a Reading Hero? Submit a nomination!**



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