

# FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



For Immediate Release

Press Release: Apple Distinguished Program



March 8, 2016 Flagstaff Unified School District is pleased to announce that it has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Program for 2015 – 2017 for its iREAD Project.

The Apple Distinguished Program designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments. The administration and faculty at Flagstaff Unified School District have been recognized for visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success, and a flexible learning environment.

The selection of FUSD's iREAD Project as Apple Distinguished Program highlights our success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment. Flagstaff Unified School District's iREAD Project was developed in response to overwhelmingly positive results from a dozen pilot projects, including one focused specifically on 1<sup>st</sup> grade reading intervention, as well as district-wide reading achievement data and the requirements of Arizona's Move on When Reading statute. iREAD addresses identified academic needs by providing shared iPad carts at grades K-3 in every FUSD elementary schools. By incorporating iPad into FUSD classrooms, students have been empowered to individualize their learning experiences through engagement with literacy skill-building apps and the creation of multimedia products that demonstrate their learning.

"The iRead program and the use of iPad in my classroom have made a tremendous impact on how I approach reading instruction with my students. The technology is very flexible and there are multiple applications; they have become a staple in reading opportunities, and provide extra practice on the skills I teach. My students love the iPad and their engagement with the program is incredible. They're having fun and boosting academic achievement. The iRead program is a win-win for everyone."

Jodi Carlson  
First Grade-Puente de Hózhó

"FUSD's recent recognition as an Apple Distinguished Program is a true honor. This designation is a representation of dedication, commitment, and exemplary implementation of technology for students. Due to the leadership of Mary Knight, Technology Director, FUSD has been able to foster a learning environment for children along with providing the staff the professional development needed that will sustain technology innovation."

Mary K. Walton  
FUSD Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

"The first year that FUSD was recognized as a model program, we were excited. To have this kind of validation again, for a second year in a row, merely supports what we and Apple clearly know: A well thought-out and supported plan for teaching reading, one that includes engaging technology and training for teachers and students, is a winning strategy. I am honored to have this recognition again, and send my great thanks and congratulations to Mary Knight and our technology department for their innovation and leadership."

Barbara Hickman  
Superintendent

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