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## Everybody Wins! DC's End of Year Survey Showcases Dramatic Impact of the Readers Are Leaders Program

WASHINGTON DC (August 16, 2007) -- **Everybody Wins! DC (EW!DC)** released impressive end of year survey results for the **Readers Are Leaders program** today. Readers Are Leaders is a **peer mentoring initiative** that matches older students with younger ones for one-on-one reading during the lunch and recess hour. The program operates in Title I public elementary schools in the District of Columbia.

Readers Are Leaders older partners (fourth through sixth grade students) eat lunch with their younger partners (first through third grade students) and then enjoy books together once a week throughout the school year. Both students benefit from the extra reading time in their week and their reading skills inevitably improve.

During the 2006-2007 school year there were **225 mentoring pairs** participating at nine schools. At the end of the academic school year EW!DC surveyed Readers Are Leaders students and their teachers on the effectiveness of the program. Results are below:

### Readers Are Leaders survey data for the 2006-07 school year:

- **87.7%** of teachers agree or strongly agree that their Readers Are Leaders students have shown an increased interest in reading and reading related activities.
- **92.9%** of teachers say that their Readers Are Leaders students have developed a more positive attitude toward reading and reading related activities.
- **92.9%** of teachers say that they have observed a noticeable improvement in the reading skills of their Readers Are Leaders students.
- **94.7%** of teachers say their Readers Are Leaders students were excited about their participation in the program.
- **94.6%** of teachers say their Readers Are Leaders students looked forward to attending the program each week.
- **96.4%** of teachers say that overall, Readers Are Leaders has had a positive impact on their students who participated in the program.
- On average, **85.25%** of all Readers Are Leaders students said that they like reading.
- **94%** of younger students said they had fun in Readers Are Leaders.
- **82%** of students said their reading skills have definitely improved since joining Readers Are Leaders.

EW!DC is the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Through its programs EW!DC reaches more than 3,000 underserved students each year in 30 Title I public elementary schools throughout the area. Individuals interested in learning more about EW!DC or the Readers Are Leaders program should visit [www.everybodywinsdc.org](http://www.everybodywinsdc.org) or contact Program Coordinator, Leigh Chowdhary, at 202.347.9467 ext 20.

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