**[bank logo]**

**For Immediate Release
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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**[Bank Contact Information]**

Monica McDearmon
Virginia Bankers Association
804-819-4743
mmcdearmon@vabankers.org

Christa Donohue

Read to Them

804-367-3195

christa.donohue@readtothem.org

 **[Bank Name] Proud to Sponsor [School Name(s)] for 2022 Virginia Reads One Book**

**[City], VA** — More than 12,100 Virginia students and their families are reading the same book on the same schedule during the month of March thanks to more than $58,000 of financial support from Virginia’s banking industry. It’s all part of Virginia Reads One Book — a statewide family literacy program designed to strengthen the educational connection between home and school from Richmond-based Read to Them. **[Bank name]** is a proud sponsor of this program at **[school name(s)]**, where more than **[number of]** students and staff will participate.

Virginia Reads One Book kicks off on **[date if different than March 7, 2022]**. During this two-week program, elementary students across Virginia will be involved in school and community events both in-person and virtually. “The program not only boosts students’ reading abilities, but it shows them reading is fun in an atmosphere that strengthens family and community interactions,” says Read to Them Executive Director Christa Donohue. “With the support of **[bank name]**, the **[school(s)]** receive a book for every student and complimentary staff copies, both family literacy and financial literacy activities, school assembly suggestions, teacher resources, and both family and community engagement tools. These resources turn a book into a community experience so everyone can enjoy and share the story.”

Each student will receive a copy of the same book, *Dog Days* by Karen English. “Our statewide reading schedule will take about 15 minutes each night,” says Donohue, “putting the entire community literally on the same page. Their reading will be augmented with classroom activities, trivia contests, prizes and fun opportunities for family engagement.”

**[Banker]** stated, “We are thrilled to be able to sponsor Virginia Reads One Book this year, which builds on other financial literacy efforts that we have going in our community, including **[insert bank’s specific financial literacy programs/involvement]**. We were drawn to this program by not only the financial literacy focus of the book, but also the idea of bringing families together.” **[adjust quote as necessary]**

**[optional quote from school staff]** “Last year was a challenging time for many students. The 2021-2022 school year has been the same for many teachers, students, and families. We want to kickoff the second half of our school year with a fun way to encourage families to continue making reading at home a priority,” says **[insert name of school principal or other school contact].**

“We are proud to again be a statewide sponsor of Virginia Reads One Book. The program not only has a financial literacy focus and boosts students’ reading abilities, but it shows them reading is fun in an atmosphere that strengthens family and community interactions,” says Bruce Whitehurst, president and CEO of the Virginia Bankers Association.

For the current list of participating schools in your area, please email christa.donohue@readtothem.org.

***About [Bank name]***

**[Insert company information.]**

***About Virginia Bankers Association Education Foundation***

The Virginia Bankers Association (VBA) formed the VBA Education Foundation in 2007 with funding from the majority of VBA member banks for the Walter Ayers Fund for Financial Education. The Foundation’s mission is to improve personal financial literacy and economic education in all public and private schools in the Commonwealth. The Foundation recognizes the importance of economic education and financial literacy in Virginia and supports the banking industry as a key participant in these areas. For more information, visit [www.vabankers.org/vba-education-foundation](http://www.vabankers.org/vba-education-foundation).

***About Read to Them***

Read to Them is a Richmond based non-profit promoting family literacy, with programs that have reached over 2 million families in over 3000 schools in all 50 states. When children become successful readers at an early age, academic success follows —increasing high school graduation rates and building the basis for a lifetime of learning and productivity. For more information, visit [www.readtothem.org](http://www.readtothem.org).

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