

## Reading is an Investment Program Teaches (School Name) Students About Money

(SCHOOL NAME) is one of 128 Vermont elementary schools participating in the Reading is an Investment program. The statewide program promotes the importance of reading and teaching children about personal finances. This is the fourth year of the program that was developed by the Vermont State Treasurer's Office and is distributed to participating schools free-of-charge.

(INSERT QUOTE FROM SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE)

The educational focus for the 2013-2014 program is "Choices Have Costs and Benefits." The featured books are: *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* by Michael Kaplan; *The Boy Who Harnassed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer; and *The Can Man* by Laura Williams.

"It is important to begin teaching children from a young age basic financial concepts," said State Treasurer Beth Pearce. "Our financial world is becoming increasingly complex. Early instruction allows children to become familiar with personal finance and build their interest in this subject. Hopefully, by the time these children are opening their own checking and saving accounts, they are comfortable with money management and are able to seek out the information they need to make financial decisions."

The Reading is an Investment program takes a two-pronged approach to promoting financial literacy — class or library instruction and personal reading. Each fall, participating elementary schools receive three new hardback books. Lesson plans and activities are included with the books to teach money concepts. At the same time, students are encouraged to participate in a personal financial literacy reading program. School librarians receive a recommended money reading list that highlights books that focus on basic financial concepts. Students who read at least three books from the list and complete personal reading requirements can send a completed reading log to the Treasurer's office for entry in a statewide drawing for one of twenty \$250 accounts in the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan — Vermont's official 529 college savings plan. Last year, more than 3,900 students completed reading logs and entered the drawing for the college savings accounts.

The Vermont program is underwritten by contributions to the Financial Literacy Trust Fund. The fund was created by the State Legislature in 2008 and authorizes the State Treasurer to receive money from a variety of sources to fund financial literacy programs. Major supporters of the program are the TD Bank Charitable Foundation, the Windham Foundation and Comcast. Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan prizes are provided by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.