



Golden Apple

Reading Bill of Rights

We believe that **literacy is a fundamental human right**, that in the global technological society of the 21st century, the ability to read is the key to equal opportunity for all and is necessary to maintaining our democratic form of government.

We further believe that all of us share a responsibility to protect the interests of the most precious and vulnerable members of our society — children. In that spirit, we declare,

ALL CHILDREN HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- I. A **caring community** that understands the process and value of learning to read;
- II. Immersion in **rich and varied language experiences** from birth, with daily opportunities to engage in and interact with language;
- III. **Qualified reading specialists** in pre-kindergarten through third grade as their classroom teachers and **early intervention** if they are identified as at risk of experiencing difficulty in learning to read;
- IV. Continued **intensive reading support**, should they not be successful readers by the end of third grade, and **teachers who have a deep understanding of literacy development** and instructional strategies that promote student success in reading;
- V. Teachers who **continuously strengthen and refine their practice** and who are models of literacy;
- VI. Resources, provided on a continuing basis, to help them become successful readers, including **access to a wide variety of reading materials**, both print and electronic, filling every classroom, library and home, reflecting diverse cultures, viewpoints, and voices, including the children's own;
- VII. **Multiple ways of demonstrating their literacy**;
- VIII. Full participation as members of the literate community; **the opportunity to grow to love reading and to become independent strategic readers; to have their voices heard, respected, and celebrated**

Ratified by the Golden Apple Academy, April 26, 2000