



May 2026

Dear Partner,

On behalf of the 1619 Freedom School, we invite you to join us as a partner in the 2026 1619 Freedom School Read-In, rooted in the belief that reading is a pathway to opportunity and lasting change.

Partnering with the 1619 Freedom School Read-In offers organizations a unique opportunity to align with a high-impact literacy initiative, engage directly with students and families, and demonstrate a meaningful commitment to education, access, and community impact. Rooted in Waterloo, the Read-In is designed as a scalable model for community-based literacy engagement.

The Read-In brings together students, families, educators, and community members for a two-day celebration of storytelling and culturally grounded literacy. Building on the success of our inaugural event, which welcomed more than 800 attendees, the 2026 Read-In will feature nationally recognized authors Jason Reynolds, Renée Watson, and Angie Thomas, further expanding the reach and impact of this experience. A defining element of the Read-In is direct access to books. Every family leaves with culturally meaningful literature, placing stories directly into the hands of young readers. In 2025, more than 3,000 books were distributed, and in 2026, we anticipate distributing approximately 3,000 books to students and families across the Waterloo community.

LIBERATION THROUGH LITERACY: 2026 READ-IN OVERVIEW

The 2026 Read-In brings together students, families, educators, and community partners for a high-impact experience with meaningful opportunities for partner visibility and engagement.

Date	July 18, 2026
Location	Waterloo West High School — Waterloo, Iowa
Expected Audience	900 students, families, and community members
Featured Authors	Jason Reynolds, Renée Watson, Angie Thomas

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities are designed to elevate partner presence while demonstrating a clear commitment to student access, community impact, and transformative literacy experiences.

<p>Freedom Champion \$10,000 <i>1 of 2 available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Premier logo placement across all event materials and on-site visibility – Recognition during key program moments, including the author dinner and main Read-In – Acknowledgement in student or classroom engagement initiatives – Dedicated social media spotlight and inclusion in all pre- and post-event communications – Inclusion in sponsor recognition across event, community, media and outreach efforts
LEVEL	BENEFITS
<p>Scholar Champion \$5,000 <i>2 of 3 available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prominent logo placement across event materials and on-site visibility – Recognition during select program moments – Acknowledgement in student or classroom engagement initiatives – Inclusion in sponsor social media and event communications – Recognition in printed program and event signage
<p>Literacy Partner \$3,500 <i>Multiple available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Logo placement on event materials and signage – Recognition in the printed program and group social media acknowledgment – Opportunity to support book distribution or community-facing elements of the event – Inclusion in event communications
<p>Freedom Ally \$1,619 <i>Multiple available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recognition as a Freedom Ally in printed program and event materials – Name included in event screen sponsor roll and group recognition – Group social media acknowledgment and thank-you
<p>Community Sponsor \$1,000 <i>Multiple available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Name in printed program – Event screen sponsor roll
<p>Friend \$500 <i>Multiple available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Name in printed program

**In-kind donations, especially of books at the event, are also accepted.*