**Sample R.I.S.E. Arkansas Op/Ed Article or Letter to the Editor**

Our children are the future of our community and our state. Their educational well-being is a priority for their families and all of us at the [insert name] School District. It is vital that we give them an education that will prepare them for college, career and community engagement. We want to ensure they graduate with strong reading, writing and oral communication skills, which are essential to success beyond high school. That is why we are excited to implement the R.I.S.E. (Reading Initiative for Student Excellence) Arkansas initiative!

Governor Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Education launched R.I.S.E. Arkansas in January. The goals of this reading initia­tive focus on significantly increasing student achievement in reading and moving Arkansas out of the bottom third nationally. If all of us – students, parents, educators and community/businesses leaders – work together, we can reach or exceed those goals.

There is a role for everyone to play in our community’s R.I.S.E. Arkansas initiative. Support can be provided through a variety of activities. This includes presenting book talks, volunteering to read books to children, holding book drives, donating books to children, or creating innovative events and celebrations to bring attention to the need to support this effort.

Our children deserve our support. By giving your time, talent and energies to support R.I.S.E. Arkansas, our community will reap the benefits for years to come. Help raise reading achievement for all Arkansas students. Support R.I.S.E. Arkansas!