BOOKWORM VENDING MACHINES DONATED BY XTO ENERGY

(Odessa, Texas). On Friday, **February 21st**, at **9:00 am** at **Blackshear Elementary** (501 S. Dixie) we will unveil a new Bookworm Vending Machine in ECISD thanks to our partners at XTO Energy. XTO team members will be on hand at Blackshear to fill the machine with books and show students how the machine works.

XTO Energy has generously donated five machines filled with books to ECISD through the Education Foundation. Other campuses receiving a Bookworm Vending Machine are Gonzales, LBJ, Jordan, and Fly Elementary.

The Bookworm Vending Machine will enhance the Bookworms Literacy Program funded by the Education Foundation by offering choice reading to students in Ector County ISD, providing students with endless opportunities to learn and become engaged in reading.

“We are so excited to see how the students at Blackshear Elementary respond to the Bookworm Vending Machine and are so grateful to our partners at XTO Energy for their donation.” states Celeste Potter, Education Foundation Director. “This is a great compliment to our Bookworms Literacy Program that currently provides students in grades Pre-K through 1st grade with a new book each month. Research shows that books in the home has a positive payoff in improved test scores so any opportunity to get books in the hands of our students is a win.”

"We are honored to partner with ECISD and the Education Foundation to promote literacy in Odessa," states Laz Cosma, operations manager, XTO Energy. "The Bookworm Vending Machines are a fun, engaging way to get students excited about reading and improve their scholastic success."

The first machine in ECISD was placed at Ross Elementary in October and was funded by the Education Foundation through an innovative classroom grant.


**About Education Foundation of Odessa**

The Education Foundation of Odessa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt, philanthropic organization of citizens who share a vision of enhancing education in ECISD.

The Education Foundation of Odessa provides a new and innovative source of funding to support the school district’s educational plan. The Foundation does not attempt to replace lost state funding, nor does it attempt to take the place of the district’s operating budget. When considering the level of funding required to educate students, the Foundation can expect only to provide funds for those projects and activities that go beyond the normal classroom experience. Such initiatives provide
enrichment, research opportunities, teacher training, intervention and prevention strategies and extend the educational effort.

The mission of the Education Foundation is to create opportunities for education in Ector County ISD. Our vision is that every student in ECISD will be school-ready, college-ready, work-ready...WORLD-READY!

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