

## **Accelerated Reader (AR) and Reading Counts (RC) Cataloging and Labeling**

The American Library Association (ALA) urges against the use of labels on library materials that would be considered “prejudicial.” Labels affixed to the outside of a book that include the reading or Lexile level of a book fall into this category. ALA further states that these labels often become a form of censorship, when students are only allowed to check out certain library materials based on a reading level or program, thereby restricting student access to materials. Most computer reading programs, including Accelerated Reader, provide web-based tools that students can use to electronically identify the quiz and level of a book. Additionally, with some of the newer web-based programs such as AR Enterprise, 50% or more of a school library collection may now be eligible to be identified as an AR book. The Department of Learning Resources and Instructional Materials supports the ALA policy regarding the labeling of books for these programs and recommends the following guidelines:

1. When schools are purchasing new materials and requesting processing for the AR program, Broward County processing specifications will now require that AR labels be placed on the book pocket located on the inside back cover or on the inside back cover, upper left-hand corner, for books that do not have a book pocket.
2. Schools should make every effort to train both staff and students on how to electronically identify AR books in the collection through the use of AR Book Guide and AR Book Finder or other web-based tools.
3. Shelving of AR books should follow standard library protocols for fiction and non-fiction. Books should not be separated or shelved by reading level or reading program.
4. A school may place a single blue label above the spine label to denote the book is an AR book or an orange label for Reading Counts. Any labels with AR level, Lexile level, points or quiz information should not be placed on the outside of the book. This includes the placement of color-coded stickers to denote specific reading levels.

