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NEWS RELEASE

COUNTY JUDGE ED EMMETT TO PRESENT LITERACY GRANT TO PASADENA GRADE SCHOOL *Verizon Gives \$7,000 to Promote Reading at Pomeroy Elementary*

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett will join officials with Verizon Communications this afternoon to present a check for \$7,000 to faculty members at Pomeroy Elementary School in the Pasadena Independent School District.

The money, donated by the Verizon Foundation, will be used to implement an intensive reading program including online literacy sources, sustained reading time and lessons on reading strategies and skills. The Verizon grant will allow the school to buy the required material to implement the program, which is targeted to third- and fourth-grade students.

"I commend Verizon for their important contribution to literacy education," said Emmett. "All of us must do whatever we can to ensure that every child in Harris County learns to read well and write well. Anything less condemns them to a lifetime of missed economic, social and recreational opportunities."

Pomeroy Elementary School is home to 816 students, a large number of whom are Hispanic and do not speak English as their primary language. The Verizon grant will provide the students with the opportunity to take part in the school's new "Pomeroy Book Buddies" after-school program.

"I know the students at Pomeroy will take advantage of this program and will learn how important – and how much fun – reading and writing can be," Emmett said. "And I'm grateful for companies like Verizon that realize their help is sorely needed to combat illiteracy."

Emmett and Verizon officials will present the check during an after-school faculty meeting. The event is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. today in the cafeteria of Pomeroy Elementary School at 920 Burke Road in Pasadena.