

Once you learn to read, you will be forever free. —Frederick Douglass

Intentionality.

Change requires intentionality and hard work. When this Foundation decided to make its mission, “to help all children in our community read at grade-level,” we strategically integrated goals that were, and are proven to advance literacy rates.

Two of our goals are to put high-quality diverse books in the hands and homes of our children and to increase summer reading opportunities in Sacramento. A bag of books might seem simple, but our book giveaway is steeped in research. Having a book in a home is as important for a child’s education as their parents’ employment and educational attainment.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

P. 2 • Promise Zone Literacy Initiative
• Summer Reading Grant Opportunity
• Professional Intern Spotlight

P. 3 • Advocacy Update
• New Literacy Map Update!
• Join us for Authors on the Move

P. 4 • Thank You to our Donors

Seeing oneself mirrored in a culturally relevant book allows the young reader to use information they have previously acquired from their environments, which leads to a more successful and confident reader. Reading five books in the summer (or any out-of-school period) helps a child hold onto previously achieved reading skills. Each bag of books brings a better future into each child’s life.

We have also been intentional about which school sites to approach first. We started with elementary schools in the Sacramento Promise Zone with Title I rates greater than 90% (Title I rates measure low-income students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals.). We are now expanding beyond the Promise Zone, and are seeking grant support for schools with a 75% or higher Title I rate. We are prioritizing the 35 elementary schools in Sacramento County above the 90% Title I rate.

Our third goal, an advocacy goal, is to help every classroom in Sacramento County implement the Science of Reading (SOR). The Science of Reading is

in·ten·tion·al·ity

/ɪnˌtɛn(t)ʃHəˈnælədē/
noun

1. the fact of being deliberate or purposive.

- **PHILOSOPHY**
the quality of mental states (e.g., thoughts, beliefs, desires, hopes) that consists in their being directed toward some object or state of affairs.

a proven, settled science that only needs appropriate implementation for success. New legislation was just introduced in California to implement the Science of Reading in all public schools. This legislation is intentionally seeking to remediate the disproportionately negative impact of current teaching methods on black and brown kids, while at the same time, helping all kids.

Inequity has been a catalyst in bringing civil rights advocacy to the reading movement. With that intention, please continue putting your energies and generosity toward all children reading.



www.sacramentoliteracy.org



Giving monthly is helpful to our continued sustainability!

Please consider prioritizing children’s literacy in your giving - the result will benefit us all.

SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



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Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 836-3540 • sacramentoliteracy.org

MISSION

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation's mission is to help all children in our community read at grade-level.

VISION

Our vision is to have all children and all adults develop the literacy skills they need to fully participate in our economy and in our democracy.

OUR GOALS

- Put diverse high-quality books in Promise Zone students' hands and homes
- Support evidence-based curriculum in classrooms and after school programs
- Expand summer reading programing and funding

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NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

T.Dogg Studios

Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • March—May 2024

Promise Zone Literacy Initiative

In December we participated in two holiday events where community members were given needed resources and Christmas gifts for their children.

At La Familia's Posada, we gave away more than 500 diverse high-quality books,

allowing every child 1-17 to pick a book of their choice to take home. When a child chooses a book to read, they are more likely to read it. The very next day we were at Councilmember's Valenzuela's Toy Distribution Day at Leataata Floyd Elementary School, where we gave another 500 books to children and their parents.



Summer Reading Grant Opportunity for Local Literacy Nonprofits and Schools

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation opened its grant application period on February 1, 2024 for children's literacy organizations and programs that are conducting summer reading programs within Sacramento County in 2024. The grant funding comes from our annual distribution from the Children's Literacy Endowment combined with direct gifts to summer reading programs.

"We are encouraging organizations that are providing summer reading programing for Sacramento County youth ages birth through 18 to apply," says April L. Javist, Executive Director of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. "We would especially like programs and projects that include collaborative partners and result in more books in children's homes."

Grant applications will be accepted through April 4, 2024. Grantees will be announced the morning of May 2, 2024, on the Big Day of Giving. More information and applications are available at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/summer-reading-grants.

Professional Intern Spotlight



Always a teacher and a learner, Bonnie Parker is excited to be a part of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation team!

Since September of 2023, Bonnie has participated in many aspects of our work; books in kids hands and homes, donor calls, and developing the Literacy Map's next steps. The Foundation met Bonnie through Intel Corporation's Encore Fellows program, administrated by the

Mountain Valley American Leadership Foundation.

A California native, Bonnie's technology career has seen varied rolls, including Business Development, Sales and Marketing, Operations Development, Partner Relationships, Data Analyst, and Strategic Planner. She has a Bachelor of Arts, in Liberal Studies, from Sacramento State. Stingers Up! When asked about her connection to literacy, Bonnie said, "My deep training and passion for education and equity, brings me to where I am now. Thank you for your support on this journey!"



On the Big Day of Giving, we will be raising funds for operations

and diverse high-quality books for our most under resourced children.

Our goal is to raise \$35,000 which will help expand our reach and impact. On this year's Big Day of Giving, we want to partner with YOU in getting all kids' reading. Email us at info@sacramentoliteracy.org and we can co-create a fundraising page for you to share with friends, family, and colleagues.

Together, we can get ALL children reading!

Advocacy Update: Science of Reading heads to California Assembly

On February 7, 2024, Assembly member Blanca Rubio introduced AB 2222 to address California's Early Literacy Crisis. The policy brief by the EdVoice Institute on this new legislation states, "The research is clear about how children learn to read. Decades of interdisciplinary research - often called the Science of Reading (SOR) - shows what it takes to ensure students develop strong literacy skills....While standalone efforts have been made to address that teacher candidates are trained in the SOR and the state has adopted universal screening to identify students with reading difficulties, more comprehensive reforms are needed to ensure students have equitable access to effective literacy instruction."

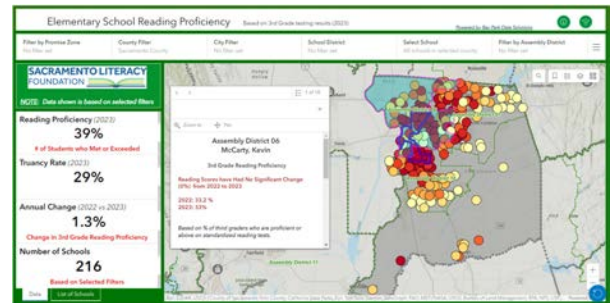
This is great news for California kids. Implementing the Science of Reading, scope and sequence, will ensure that we are teaching our children to read. We encourage everyone to go to the Literacy map on the Foundation's website (www.sacramentoliteracy.org), look up your Assembly Member, and send an email or make a call in support of AB 2222. Let our policy leaders know that you care about giving all kids the right to read. Sometime in mid-March, the California State Assembly Committee on Education will vote on moving the bill forward or not.

In Sacramento we have two Assembly Members on the Committee on Education so make sure to reach out to: Contact Assembly Member Josh Hoover and Contact Assembly Member Kevin McCarty.

Find Your Assembly Representative on the Literacy Map!

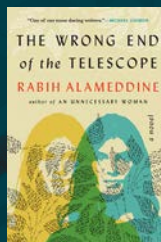
With the expansion of the Foundation's mission, we found reason to expand the Literacy Map to include all of California. The map expansion helps Literacy Providers, Policy Makers, Philanthropists and Parents see which schools are succeeding at increasing 3rd grade literacy rates. The intent of the Literacy Map has always been to illustrate progress on key literacy indicators over time and identify where literacy resources and interventions are needed most.

The Literacy Map has always had political boundaries, but to make advocacy easier, the landing page has been altered so that you can find your California Assembly District leader faster and easier. Go to Literacy Map | Sacramento Literacy Foundation and check it out. With your computer mouse, click onto the map. An information card for the State Assembly District in that geographic area pops up and provides the following information: the district's 3rd grade reading scores, and the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of the Assembly District's staff.



Keep an eye out this Spring for the 6th Annual Literacy Report Card which will detail literacy results for the 2022-2023 school year.

Authors on the Move! 2024



JOIN US MARCH 9!

Featuring Rabih Alameddine, author of *The Wrong End of the Telescope*, winner of the 2022 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

MARCH 9, 2024 | Kimpton Sawyer Hotel | Please call 916-836-3540 or email aom@sacramentoliteracy.org

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