

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

Responsibility

It is all our responsibility to help our kids learn to read, and solving the literacy crisis will require all of us to participate.

Last year, the Sacramento Literacy Coalition attended School Board meetings throughout the County, asking school districts to adopt a version of Sacramento County Office of Education's (SCOE) resolution on the Science of Reading. This year, we are going back to the districts to review three literacy bills that have passed in the last three years. Our education leaders at the governance level need to understand the tools they have to help their districts succeed at reading instruction.

Awareness of the literacy crisis is growing because illiteracy affects every part of our society. The pandemic revealed the literacy crisis to parents and policy makers alike. Post-pandemic, we have learned much more about children's literacy and a literacy movement has emerged. Next, we need to understand the data measuring reading proficiency. In Sacramento County, only 42% of 3rd graders are reading at grade-level – a 4% increase from the previous year. Progress at this rate means all kids will not be reading at grade-level until 2038. This is unacceptable; our children and communities cannot afford to wait that long.

The Foundation's responsibility is to help all our children achieve grade-level reading. Turning the literacy crisis around will come faster if we include

re·spon·si·bil·ity
/rəˈspən(t)səˈbɪlədi/
noun

1. The state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone. – “a true leader **takes responsibility** for their team and helps them achieve goals”

literacy in our daily conversations, our daily work, and our organizational strategies. Literacy directly influences physical and mental health, home ownership, school success, college and career trajectory, and prison rates to name a few.

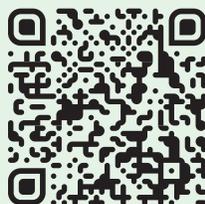
As donors, you too are taking responsibility for the future of the children in our community. It's an honor to work with you and the Sacramento Literacy Coalition to increase 3rd grade reading proficiency in Sacramento. Your support is making a difference!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- P. 2** • Promise Zone Literacy Initiative
- Letter from Principal Sandra K. Brown
- Summer Reading Grant Opportunity
- P. 3** • Advocacy Update
- Big Day of Giving is May 7!
- Gifts of Real Estate
- P. 4** • Thank You to our Donors

NEW Literacy Report Card!

The California Literacy Map illustrates statewide progress on key literacy indicators over time and identifies where literacy resources and interventions are needed the most. Each year, the Foundation issues a Sacramento County Literacy Report Card. **Please see the annual Sacramento Literacy Report Card 2024-2025 in this publication.**



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



Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • March—May 2026

Promise Zone Literacy Initiative

In December and January, we expanded our book giveaway program.

We partnered with the Elk Grove Rotary to give brand new culturally relevant books to 739 TK-2nd grade-students from Samuel Kennedy and Charles Mack Elementary Schools. We delivered 10,000 culturally relevant books to 5 WellSpace

Health sites to kick off our Measure L Children's Fund project. And we started a "Culturally Relevant Classroom Library" pilot that will create programming ideas for teachers using a 50-book classroom library. Hopefully, the programming and outcomes will allow us to find new funding to expand the culturally relevant library program to dozens of 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms in Sacramento County.



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 culturally relevant high-quality books in students' hands and homes.
- Support evidence-based curriculum in classrooms and after school programs.
- Expand summer reading programming and funding.

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The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please consult your tax advisor.
Tax ID #68-0029756

Dear Sacramento Literacy Foundation,

On behalf of the students and staff at Samuel Kennedy Elementary School, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of books. We were blown away by your incredible gift that our families will be able to treasure for years! Your thoughtful contribution will have an incredible impact on our students, fostering their love for reading and providing them with the tools they need to succeed academically.

These books will not only enhance their literacy skills, but also open new doors to imagination, creativity, and a world of learning. We are incredibly fortunate to have partners like you in our community who share our commitment to empowering young minds.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support. Your generosity is truly making a difference in the lives of young students.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Sandra K Brown, Principal

Summer Reading Grant Opportunity for Local Literacy Nonprofits and Schools

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation opened its application period on February 3, 2026, for children's literacy organizations and programs that are conducting summer reading programs within Sacramento County in 2026. The grant funding comes from our annual distribution from the Children's Literacy Endowment that is dedicated to summer reading programming.

Grants will prioritize collaborative programs that result in more culturally relevant books in children's homes. Grant applications will be accepted through April 3, 2026. Grantees will be announced on the morning of May 7, 2026, during the Big Day of Giving.

More information and applications are available at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/summer-reading-grants.

Big Day of Giving

MAY 7

Help us on the Big Day of Giving!

On the Big Day of Giving, we will be raising funds to continue our work of putting culturally relevant books in the hands and homes of our most under-resourced kids.

During last year's Big Day of Giving, only 1.5% of the funds raised went to early literacy. Our goal is to meet new literacy donors, volunteers and advocates and help lift up literacy organizations in Sacramento

On this year's Big Day of Giving, we want to partner with YOU in helping all kids learn to read.

Let's co-create a fundraising page for you to share with friends, family, and colleagues! Email us at info@sacramentoliteracy.org to get started today.

Together, we can get ALL children reading!

Advocacy Update:

We have legislation, now we need implementation!



Through the Sacramento Literacy Coalition's advocacy efforts, Folsom-Cordova, River-Delta, and San Juan unified school districts have all passed a resolution similar to the resolution the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) passed regarding a commitment to the science of reading in reading instruction. Several other districts are considering the same.

This year, the Sacramento Literacy Coalition is returning to the School District Board of Directors to present a quick review of the three literacy bills that have passed post pandemic: SB 488, SB 114, and AB 1454. Our education leaders at the governance level need to understand the tools they have to help their district staff succeed at reading instruction. We have received positive feedback from district administrators who appreciate the work we do to keep literacy in front of their Boards.

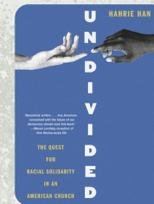
If you would like to join our efforts and/or see the presentation, please contact our office at 916-836-3540 or info@sacramentoliteracy.org today.

Authors
on the Move! 2026

March 14, 2026

Kimpton Sawyer Hotel • Sacramento, CA

For details please contact April at 916-836-3540 or april@sacramentoliteracy.org



We are excited to welcome Hahrie Han, one of 22 MacArthur genius grant recipients in 2025, and author of *Undivided*.

Have you Considered Gifts of Real Estate?

If handled professionally, donated real estate can be a valuable asset for the Literacy Foundation to receive. Recently, the Foundation met with Realty Gift Fund (RGF), a 501(c)3 nonprofit that exclusively accepts charitable gifts of real estate on behalf of donors, financial advisors, and other nonprofits. RGF was founded by real estate professionals.

According to Bruce Geiss, RGF's co-founder, the organization's mission is "to promote the charitable giving of real estate by accepting real estate gifts of any kind, anywhere..." RGF steps in as a specialized nonprofit to take title directly from donors, to fix and sell each property, and grant net sale proceeds to other nonprofits named by the donors. The process protects nonprofits against risks and helps donors avoid significant capital gain taxes. RGF can pay off debt, make partial cash payments to donors, accept partial interests, or accept bequests on behalf of its donors' favorite social causes.

If you would like to donate real estate through your trust to the Literacy Foundation, please contact our office and/or RGF. The process begins with a consultation and a written Net Gift Estimate outlining goals, timing, and projected results. If you would like to learn more, contact April Javist at (916) 836-3540 x2 or april@sacramentoliteracy.org and/or Bruce Geiss at (505) 660-8470 or bruce@realtygiftfund.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today.

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