

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

Dedication

While small, the Literacy Foundation and the Sacramento Literacy Movement remain dedicated to helping all our kids' read at grade-level and our advocacy goals for 2026-2027 are being shaped right now.

While last year saw an average 3% increase in grade-level reading rates, more California students cannot read at grade level than can. Literacy remediation is needed at every grade level, including college.

In recognition of the need to build strong relationships across the literacy

community, the Foundation hosts the Sacramento Literacy Coalition's monthly check-in; bringing literacy providers and advocates together to find solutions we can all support. We host the California Literacy Map on our website and produce an annual Sacramento County Literacy Report Card. Annually, we give funds to local organizations conducting summer reading programming and throughout the year we raise funds for our culturally relevant book giveaways.

The California Literacy Map is a tool to connect literacy advocates, educators and funders to the literacy data they need. The map was instrumental in providing data that helped pass Science of Reading legislation. The map also provides advocates with data they can

dedi·cation

/ded-i-key-shuhn/

1. The quality of being dedicated or committed to a task or purpose:

Dedicated to the one I love.

share with their local literacy leaders and shows literacy providers and literacy philanthropists where the need is greatest.

Our staff, board, donors and volunteers are all busy putting books in the hands and homes of our most under-resourced kids. This small group of thoughtful (and hard working) citizens are dedicated to the kids who need it most. The Sacramento literacy community is growing stronger every day, and success will continue to happen if we stick together until the goal is met.

Your support, every year, makes this work possible – thank you for your dedication to literacy.

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The local convener for the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading in Sacramento.



www.sacramentoliteracy.org

Giving monthly helps 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 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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Please consult your tax advisor.

Tax ID #68-0029756

Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • September—November 2026

Happy Literacy Month Sacramento!



September is Sacramento's designated Literacy Month and September 8th is Sacramento's Literacy Day, aligned with International Literacy Day.

This year we are out and about at community events to let people know:

1. They have a local literacy foundation
2. More kids cannot read at grade-level than can
3. How to support literacy for our students.

Join us at Chalk-it-up on Labor Day Weekend – volunteer too if you have a couple of hours – and look for us at local events.

Culturally Relevant Book Giveaways

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation has been dedicated to giving Sacramento's most under-resourced kids culturally relevant books: books where they see themselves in the pages they are reading.

When you look back at favorite childhood books, likely the leading character looked like you. This is how children find their love for reading – by seeing themselves and their communities in the books they read. Read below for how the Foundation is making sure our kids are seeing themselves.

Promise Zone Literacy Initiative: Book giveaways in September

During Sacramento's Literacy month (this September) we will reach another 1,646 students with a bag of (5) culturally relevant books. Program Manager, Rigo Tovar, notes "this program helps bridge the literacy gap among low-income youth in my community – kids are often times seeing themselves for the first time in these books which sets that expectation and motivates them to engage with the books year over year." If you would like to volunteer, follow this link: <https://signup.com/go/naBderq>



WellSpace Health Book Giveaway

The WellSpace Health Book Giveaway has reached over 5,709 0–5-year-old patients with brand new culturally relevant books. Due to support from the Measure L: Sacramento Children's Fund, we have secured funding to put 19,000 brand new culturally relevant books in the hands of WellSpace patients who are 0–5 years old. "WellSpace Health is thrilled to be able to participate in a book giveaway. By sharing books at every wellness visit, we're planting the seeds of health literacy, one page at a time," said Dr. Janine Bera.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade Classroom Libraries

Last year, we secured funding to launch a pilot for 'Culturally Relevant Classroom Libraries'. We invited four schools, to put libraries in their 1st and 2nd grade classrooms and then we surveyed the teachers. Survey results show 75% of teachers incorporated the classroom libraries into their literacy instruction, 100% reported increased student engagement with books, and 90% found bilingual titles increased engagement among bilingual students. Teachers noted that students recognized titles from books they had previously received through our Promise Zone Literacy Initiative, creating excitement and reinforcing reading habits in the classroom and at home. This year we are applying for grants to fund classroom libraries for 40 schools.

Authors on the Move! 2027

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS

March 13, 2027

Authors on Move 2027 will be our incredible 25th year hosting regional authors for a night of literary delight.

We're planning a special night, with *more* authors, *more* books, and *more* opportunities to help all kids read!

Please save the date and join us for Sacramento's premier literacy event! **Authors on Move 2027** will be held at the newly renovated Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel.

To help sponsor this signature event and show your support for literacy, please contact our office at 916-836-3540 or email info@sacramentoliteracy.org



Advocacy Update



Sacramento County

This month, the Sacramento Literacy Coalition focused on our advocacy priorities for the 2026-2027 school year.

We believe speaking directly at School District Board meetings is vital to keeping our advocacy on the public record and holding Trustees accountable.

Our top three priorities are:

- Target 80% grade-level reading by 2030: Challenge districts to reach 80% grade-level reading rates by 2030. It is an ambitious but achievable goal if we all dedicate ourselves to helping kids read!
- Expand High-Dosage Tutoring: Hire tutors for struggling readers in all grades. With over 100,000 local students needing help and fewer than 1,000 currently served, our kids need this proven support to catch up.
- Appoint a Literacy Chief: Urge districts to hire a dedicated leader to manage a complete reading instruction framework from TK through 12th grade.

Want to help?

Join us in speaking to local boards! Check out our SignUp calendar to view the 2026-2027 meeting schedule and grab a slot. You will find all the details and materials you need right on the sign-up page: <https://signup.com/go/KDKuxbQ>



Meet the Board: Sarah Jimenez, Treasurer

Sarah is a communications executive with nearly two decades of experience serving in public policy and nonprofit organizations, including Calbright College, the California Health Care Foundation, and the California Budget & Policy Center. She is an avid reader and eager to talk about the growing TBR (to be read) list she's always building. Sarah started her career as a journalist in California's Central Valley, covering the communities where she grew up. That experience has fueled her passion to ensure people have access to quality information to make decisions in their lives and to highlight diverse stories of people, policies, and decisions across our communities. She holds a master's degree in business administration from California State University, Sacramento and bachelor's degrees in print journalism and gender studies from the University of Southern California.

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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Contributions received May 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026

Lifting Literacy for Future Generations

If you are reading this, chances are that you have been generous in helping the Sacramento Literacy Foundation thrive.

Have you ever thought about who will take your place to become the literacy champions of the future? You will be relieved to know that you can - by adding a Legacy Gift for the Sacramento Literacy Foundation in your will or estate plan. Foundation donors who have made this commitment are honored as members of our Legacy Circle for ensuring that this community has the resources to help all kids live fulfilling, productive lives by reading at grade-level. We applaud their generosity and invite all donors to consider leaving their own mark on the future in such a meaningful way.

Legacy Giving does not have to be complicated or necessarily involve your legal and financial advisors. You can simply change the beneficiary form of your life insurance plan or Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to reflect a fixed amount or percentage you'd like to dedicate to the Foundation. If you have a living trust or will, it can be as easy as adding one sentence to the document to make a simple bequest:

I hereby devise [description of particular asset] OR [the sum of \$ _____] OR [__% of the gross estate subject to disposition under this instrument] to the Sacramento Literacy Foundation, Federal Tax ID 68-0029756.

To learn more, please call our office at 916-836-3540 and we will get you in touch with one of our planned giving experts.