

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

Connected(ness)

While small, the Literacy Foundation and the Sacramento Literacy Movement are growing

through a continued effort to connect individuals, organizations, and industries together so we can, as a community, get all our kids' reading at grade-level.

In recognition of building collaborations across the community the Foundation has taken on the responsibility of Literacy Convener. We host the Sacramento Literacy Coalition's monthly check-in and once a year we hold a Literacy Festival at the Oak Park Farmers Market for a little fun, connection with others, and an opportunity to reach families in the neighboring schools.

This year, the Ed Voice Institute, SCOE, Sacramento County Reads, SMUD, Teach for America and Murphy Austin are joining the Foundation to host the festival.

Additionally, we host the California Literacy Map, a tool to connect literacy advocates, educators and funders to the literacy data they need to do their work effectively. The map helped secure AB 1454 by helping advocates connect to their Assembly and Senate leaders. Sacramento's Literacy community needs to continue to grow because **in Sacramento County, more kids cannot read at grade-level than can.**

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

con·nect·ed·ness

/kə'nektəd nəəs/
noun

1. The state of being joined or linked.
"the connectedness of American business life and American sports"
2. A feeling of belonging to or having affinity with a particular person or group.
"it's about partnering, trust, and connectedness"

working) citizens are changing the lives of kids who need it most, one book at a time. 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 – it's an honor to be on the same team with you. Thank you.

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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 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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Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • September—November 2025

Promise Zone Literacy Initiative: September is Sacramento's Literacy Month!



Literacy Festival at Oak Park Farmers Market

**Saturday, September 27, 2025
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Let's have some literacy fun! Bring some chairs, bring some snacks, and settle in for this year's Literacy Festival at the Oak Park Farmer's Market. This year's family festivities will include Clean Slate, a live band performing old school Rhythm and Blues inspired by

Tower of Power, access to food vouchers for the Oak Park Farmers Market (while they last), vendor booths with kid's games, lots of free books, author readings by children's authors and helpful information for parents from local literacy organizations.

If you would like to have a table at the event (along with a kid's activity) please call 916-836-3540.

SACRAMENTO LITERACY
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Teach For America



SMUD®

Book GiveAways in September



During Sacramento's Literacy month (this September) we will reach another 1,100 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." We are grateful for support from the Rotary Club of Elk Grove, Sierra Health Foundation, and donors at Authors on the Move for this back-to-school drive.

If you would like to volunteer, please visit our on-line sign-up portal for the back-to-school drive at <https://signup.com/go/mqVxWiS>

WellSpace Health Book GiveAway



The WellSpace Health Book Giveaway is

launching this Fall. Due to enormous support and paid for by Measure L: Sacramento Children's Fund, we have secured funding to put culturally relevant books in the hands and homes of every 0–5-year-old WellSpace patient living in the City of Sacramento during their wellness visit. That's 19,000 books in kids' hands and homes. "WellSpace Health is thrilled to be able to participate in this book giveaway. A book in a child's hands is more than a story, it's a building block for a healthier future. By sharing books at every wellness visit, we're planting the seeds of health literacy, one page at a time," said Dr. Janine Bera. We continue to seek grantors to reach all of WellSpace's 0-5 patients who live in Sacramento County.

ADVOCACY UPDATE



Universal Screener for Reading Difficulties

Universal Screening to detect reading difficulties begins with this 2025-2026 school year. All students in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be screened for reading difficulties. California adopted 4 screeners and schools can choose which screener they will use. The screeners are designed to identify

students who may be at risk for reading difficulties - this is not a diagnostic tool but a tool to identify kids who may be at risk and struggling. A child who struggles to read falls behind academically, which then creates confidence issues and diminishes their future education opportunities. Getting to kids early will make a huge difference. The California Universal Screener project was led by the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE).



California Legislation 1454

On August 18th, the Senate Appropriations Committee will hear many bills, among them is AB 1454, a comprehensive literacy bill to put evidence-based curriculum and teacher training in every California K-5th grade classrooms. EdVoice Institute believes the bill will be moved to the suspense file because its budget is larger than \$100,000. Advocates are still hopeful the bill will move quickly to the governor's desk, largely due to Speaker Rivas' support and commitment to helping kids in California learn to read. This bill could be law by September making California the 11th State in the country to pass legislation that addresses every category needed to create a systemic change in reading instruction.

To learn more and get involved, please visit www.californiakidsread.org and www.edvoice.org today.

Meet the Board: Dr. Elvia Ramirez

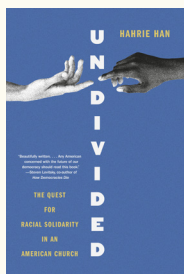


Dr. Elvia Ramirez is a faculty member at California State University, Sacramento. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology and specializes in the study of higher education. She is the former President of the California Sociological Association and former Board Member of the Pacific Sociological Association. "What I see today is that the need to support children's literacy and support kids in their academic pursuit is so much more critical today than at any other time in my career," noted Dr. Ramirez. Dr. Ramirez is passionate about educational equity, access, and opportunities for all students.



Authors on the Move Welcomes Hahrie Han to the Table

March 14, 2026 - Save the Date!



Authors on Move 2026 will host award winning author Hahrie Han on March 14, 2026 at the Kimpton Sawyer. Hahrie Han writes for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New Republic* and is the author of four scholarly books, most recently *UNDIVIDED*, which was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2024.

Please join us for Sacramento's premier literary event! For sponsorship information please call 916-836-3540 or email info@sacramentoliteracy.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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*Contributions received May 2
through July 31, 2025.*



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.