

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

## Investment.

**The investments we make in our children's education** and, in particular, our children's collective ability to read will make businesses profitable and will create material results in the voting booth. Right now, and because of COVID-19, there are huge education investments being made by federal and state governments, but many of these investments are one-time allocations (see inside article). Because education is ongoing, funding for education also needs to be sustainable. Philanthropic investments are more likely to have a longer-term impact in education because they are not tied to an annual 'spend-it-or-loose-it' financial approach. This difference creates an opportunity for philanthropy to assume a leadership role and affect long-term advances in literacy.

Longer-term philanthropic investment can be achieved through endowment distributions which is exactly why we remain focused on endowment building. The Foundation is committed to funding

effective local literacy providers, both private and governmental, for longer periods of time, enough time to make real advances. We are currently conducting a landscape analysis of summer reading resources in Sacramento in order to identify programs and providers that are most likely to have a long-term impact so that annual distributions to them from our Children's Literacy Endowment will be effective long-term investments.

Because the Science of Reading can help 95% of children read, we are committed to introducing the Science of Reading into the early grades. Changing school curriculum means training teachers as well as college students who want to be teachers. Building capacity to include the Science of Reading in after-school and in-school literacy organizations and programs means supporting organizations on the ground and organizations not yet formed. Large investments like this require consistent forward motion and time. All children reading at grade-level will happen if we are

### in·vest·ment

/in'ves(t)mənt/

1. the action or process of investing money for profit or material result.

*"a debate over private investment in road-building"*

deliberate and consistent in supporting the programs that achieve positive results.

Currently, there are seven literacy focused organizations in Sacramento County in addition to the public library. There are also 'literacy programs' hosted within non-literacy focused organizations that are effective and scalable. Our operations will continuously scan the county to identify effective literacy programs and literacy organizations. The Community Literacy Map gives us the ability to continuously measure reading rates by school site and by grade, to see what is working and what is not, and to make the appropriate adjustments to achieve the goal of all children reading at grade-level.

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# SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



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Sacramento, CA 95817  
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## MISSION

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation's mission is to improve lives by collaborating with organizations in our community to advance literacy skills.

## 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

- Increase philanthropic literacy funding toward the goal of all children reading at grade-level
- Insert reading sciences into the community literacy and education systems
- Advocate for a fully literate community

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER LAYOUT  
T.Dogg Studios

Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • October - November 2021

# Federal and State Education Investments

**In response to COVID-19, billions of dollars** are being directed by federal and state governments. Here is what we have learned about the investments being made in education.

The U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan infrastructure bill on August 10th which includes \$550B in new federal investments in America's infrastructure over the next five years. Of that, \$121.7B is being invested in improving broadband infrastructure, improving networks, subsidizing broadband in qualifying households, and digital equity. The pandemic highlighted digital inequity considering all students were expected to access their classrooms remotely.

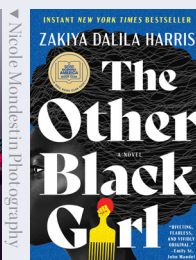
Governor Gavin Newsom signed California's 2021-22 budget on July 12th, which includes more than \$21B targeted at education, mental health, teacher shortages, and broadband infrastructure. This includes a \$2.7B investment in transitional kindergarten programs for all 4-year-olds in the state by 2025, as well as nearly

doubling the supply of subsidized childcare spaces. A \$5B investment will offer every pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade student summer school and after-school programming. A one-time \$4B investment in the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative will help young people up to age 25 cope with mental health challenges. A \$2.8B investment will address teacher shortages; 50K new teachers could be available in the next five years. A \$6B Broadband Infrastructure Program will build fiber capacity to all regions of the state.

In addition to these investments, California has become the first state in the nation to require all teachers and school staff to be vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing. California has also launched the largest free student lunch program in the country. As of this fall, all 6.2M public school students have the option to eat school meals for free regardless of household income. Most of this funding is one-time, so smart spending will be important. **Investing in education is critical and these budgets are a good start.**

## SAVE THE DATE! — MARCH 12, 2022

Authors  
on the Move! 2022



**Authors on the Move 2022 is a debut year** with keynote author Zakiya Dalila Harris and her novel, *The Other Black Girl*. This timely debut novel brings an insider's view of the publishing industry and addresses the complexity of diverse workplace relationships with a thriller twist.

Our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be held for the first time at Kimpton, The Sawyer, overlooking DOCO and the Golden 1 Arena. Beth Ruyak, of Ruyak Media, has graciously agreed to emcee the evening and Councilmember Pat Hume will return as our auctioneer. Sponsor opportunities and table purchases are available now by calling our offices at 916-836-3556 or emailing April Javist at [april@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:april@sacramentoliteracy.org). The event will happen on March 12, 2022 from 5pm – 10pm and is black tie optional. **Let's dress up and have some fun in-person!**

Anthem BlueCross





## Literacy Successes: Literacy & Justice for All Initiative

**Intended for educators, parents, and other adults** who work with children,

the newly formed Literacy & Justice for All Initiative in Marietta, Georgia aims to empower every child to become a proficient reader. The initiative seeks to bring the Science of Reading to students in every community through the adults who interact with them, from birth to third-grade. Although targeted specifically in Marietta, Georgia at this time, the instructional resources are available to everyone for free through the online learning platform Cox Campus.

Implementing the Science of Reading in school curriculum is critical to get all kids reading, whether those kids are in Marietta, Georgia or Sacramento, California. The initiative is organized around the idea that “through reading, we become the people we are meant to be – and every child deserves that opportunity so they can experience the equity and justice afforded through universal literacy.”

**Follow along with their updates online at [www.coxcampus.org/literacy-justice-for-all](http://www.coxcampus.org/literacy-justice-for-all).**

## Literacy Volunteers Wanted

### BE A READING TUTOR

Tutoring a young person means being a teacher and a mentor. Studies show that after parents and teachers, mentors are the most significant influence on children.



**916 Ink's Read On!** is an online reading tutoring program where community volunteers remotely deliver literacy skills activities to students in the classroom or at home. 916 Ink works with partnering educators to identify students who are behind in grade level reading. Read On! is currently seeking volunteers for the Fall 2021 semester. Volunteers are expected to attend multiple trainings, undergo a background check, and meet with students for 3 hours per week Sept. 20 through Dec. 10. If interested, fill out the Volunteer Application Form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/6h9gY5Mfps>. We look forward to hearing from you!



United Way  
California Capital Region

**United Way STARS**, powered by BookNook, provides virtual literacy tutoring to students in need of support. Volunteers are asked to commit to 3 months of consistent virtual tutoring (at least 1 hour a week, split into two 30-minute sessions). To learn more, check out [www.yourlocalunitedway.org/stars](http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/stars)

Interested in getting involved with the Sacramento Literacy Movement? Look no further! Here at Sacramento Literacy Foundation, we're always in need of office volunteers to help with our monthly mailings and other administrative tasks. **If you're interested in volunteering, email Jenny Winstead at [jenny@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:jenny@sacramentoliteracy.org).**

## Introducing the California Reading Coalition

**We know you care about California kids' reading**, so we want to introduce you to the newly formed California Reading Coalition, spearheaded by advocate and parent Todd Collins.

The California Reading Coalition (CRC) is made up of educators, advocates, researchers, and policymakers committed to improving reading outcomes for all California students. They support school districts, advocates, and policymakers in focusing on the reading crisis and working to improve curriculum, instruction, and outcomes for every student.



CALIFORNIA  
READING  
COALITION

The CRC recently released their California Reading Report Card which ranks school districts throughout the state by their English Language Arts (ELA) scores. The Report Card looks exclusively at the percent of third-grade socio-economically disadvantaged Hispanic and Latino students that “meet or exceed” grade-level on their ELA tests. Comparing the two most recent testing cycles, the Report Card shows that half of the top ten districts are located in Los Angeles County and eight of the bottom ten districts are in Northern California. As for Sacramento County, our highest ranked school district is #70 on the list with 39% of these students meeting or exceeding grade-level. The lowest ranked Sacramento County school district is Sacramento City Unified with 25% of these students meeting or exceeding grade-level. Of the 287 school districts analyzed on this report card, Sacramento City Unified comes in at #246 on the list.

The CRC is hosting its first annual gathering, which will be virtual, on Tuesday, October 19th, 9am – 1pm. Participation is free this year so if you can, and want to participate, go to [www.careads.org/annual-gathering](http://www.careads.org/annual-gathering) and sign up. **See you there!**

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at [www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today](http://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today).

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Lois Ann Rosenberg

*Contributions received July 10, 2021  
through September 9, 2021.*



## Walk4Literacy on Pause



[walk4literacy.org](http://walk4literacy.org)

### The Walk4Literacy is being postponed this year

because we do not know what to expect regarding COVID-19 and its variants. We will work with our literacy colleagues to reinvent and reestablish this family-friendly

event that everyone can enjoy in 2022 provided it is safe.

Learning loss and consequent declining literacy rates is now more than ever a critical issue facing our country and our region. We will be talking with our partners and collaborators.

**If you would like to be a part of reigniting  
Walk4Literacy 2022, give us a call at 916-836-3540.**

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## E-mail Receipts

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is shifting to digital receipts! Giving your e-mail address will allow you to stay up to date on community literacy news with an electronic version of the *Reader* and it will allow your charitable receipts to arrive faster and with less environmental impact.

**Please share your e-mail address with the return envelope or send it to [info@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:info@sacramentoliteracy.org) today!**