

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

Responsive.

Our goals, as the local convener of Sacramento's literacy community, are focused on helping all children read. That focus is directly responsive to one of the most critical and persistent problems of our time, namely, the failure to teach children to be proficient readers.

Pre-pandemic, only 36% of 3rd-grade students in the City of Sacramento, and 46% of 3rd-grade students in Sacramento County were proficient in reading. Initial data measuring the pandemic's impact on learning loss has recently been released (see inside article for detailed data). The pre-pandemic reading levels, although discouragingly low, represented a 13% improvement over the decade

earlier. That hard-won progress was the result of governmental and non-profit entities, including the Foundation, working together with a shared goal - all children reading at grade-level. The pandemic, unfortunately, has wiped out a lot of that progress.

When the pandemic shut down our public schools, we knew our poorest children would suffer the most. In response, we partnered with the Sacramento Promise Zone SHRA, to put diverse, high-quality books in 4,000 K-2nd-grade students' hands and homes. We learned, first-hand, that many students had no books in their homes so, this year we found a way to put between five and 15 books into each of their homes. These are some of our most challenged kids, having books in their homes, and seeing themselves on the pages of those books, is impactful.

Our Children's Literacy Endowment conducted an environmental scan of regional summer reading programming, and based on the results of that scan, the endowment promptly made meaningful distributions to numerous organization that provide effective summer reading

re·spon·sive
\ ri-'spän(t)-siv \

Adjective

1. giving response: constituting a response: answering a responsive glance
2. quick to respond or react appropriately or sympathetically: sensitive

programs. Our endowment focus is to expand summer reading programming and expand our endowment's capacity to support those programs.

We brought back the Walk 4 Literacy this year and hosted a fun community literacy event anchored in Oak Park. Net proceeds from the Walk 4 Literacy will be distributed to literacy programming that includes the Science of Reading (SoR), a proven science that can successfully teach 95% of our children to read.

As Sacramento's literacy foundation, we have worked hard this year to understand and respond to Sacramento's literacy needs, and we remain committed to helping our youngest students achieve reading proficiency. Reading is the single most important skill a person can learn. **Together, let's teach all our kids to read.**

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

*Authors
on the Move! 2023*

March 11, 2023 | 5-10pm
Kimpton The Sawyer, Sacramento

We have **table sponsorships** available – let us know right away if you are interested in becoming a sponsor.



Promise Zone Literacy Initiative Bi-monthly Report

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

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

- 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 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.

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

T.Dogg Studios



Children in the Twin Rivers Unified School District who received our bag of 5 diverse, high-quality books during our August book give-away were treated to book readings by local authors JaNay Brown-Wood and Leticia Ordaz. One school principal commented that this was the first time an author had read to them; before then, they did not know what the word 'author' meant. Now they own a book by an author that they have met.

When kids received their books, their excitement made all our hard work worthwhile. In addition, our book giveaways have given us a chance to be friendly and helpful to our public elementary schools and get to know the principals and staffs.

Huge Win for the Future of Children Reading

This fall, Lucy Calkins, rewrote her kindergarten – 2nd grade curriculum to include evidence-based techniques developed through the Science of Reading. This is a huge win for the future of children's literacy, because her 'Units of Study' curriculum is estimated to be in a quarter of the country's 67,000 elementary schools. Despite decades of research showing that the 'Units of Study' did not create readers, Ms. Calkins stuck to her 'balanced literacy' approach until this year. For further detail on this story see [Lucy Calkins Retreats on Phonics in Fight Over Reading Curriculum - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#).

We are responding to the growing consensus of research showing that curricula based on the Science of Reading produces successful literacy outcomes. We are hopeful that Ms. Calkins' modification of her curriculum will accelerate the movement toward evidence-based reading instruction, both locally and around the country.

Your Generosity Matters – We Need Your Help

The goal of getting all children reading at grade-level is big and needs your help. We need to continue to put diverse books in the hands of homes of children, we need to continue to increase funding for summer reading and we need more after-school high-dosage tutoring programs in our elementary schools. There is much to be done. With adequate resources from private and corporate philanthropy we can get there. Please donate to our annual fund or one of our endowments so that we can continue to keep literacy a priority in Sacramento.



Summer Reading Grant Opportunity for Local Literacy Nonprofits and Schools

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation will open its grant application period on February 1st for children's literacy organizations and programs that are conducting summer reading programs within Sacramento County in 2023. The grant funding comes from our annual distribution from the Children's Literacy Endowment combined with direct gifts to summer reading programs.

Last year we were able to make summer reading grants to 916 Ink, Breakthrough Sacramento, Cottage Housing, Hmong Youth and Parents United, LifeSTEPS USA, Sacramento Chinese Community Services Center, the United Way California Capital Region, and Unsung Heroes.

"We are encouraging organizations that are providing summer reading programming 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."

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Grant applications will be accepted through April 4, 2023. Grantees will be announced on the morning of May 4, 2023, the Big Day of Giving. More information and applications will be available February 1, 2023 at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/summer-reading-grants.

Sacramento



2022

We are proud of our partnership with the Sacramento Promise Zone and the Sacramento Redevelopment and Housing Agency. By co-leading an effort to help kids in the Promise Zone read, we brought Sacramento its first All-America City Award win!

Check out our presentation at [Sacramento's All America City Award 2022](#).

State and Local Reading Deficits Caused by COVID

While data is just beginning to be released and analyzed, here is some initial information about reading deficits caused by COVID.

Statewide, change in average reading scores between 2019 and 2022 for fourth-grade public school students assessed in the Nation's Report Card (NAEP), show that California was one of 22 states that had no significant change: i.e – less than 2% +/- change in reading rates. (<https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading/states/scores/?grade=4>)

Locally, we can see from Cal Matters data that Promise Zone elementary schools – 21 in total – show approximately 35% of 3rd graders reading proficiently in 2019 and 27% in 2022; a 8.7% decline. During the same period, Sacramento City and Twin Rivers Unified School Districts, shows a 4.7% and a 6.6% decline respectively in reading achievement. The larger declines in the Promise Zone are indicative of the high poverty rate of 84%. (<https://calmatters.org/education/k-12-education/2022/10/california-student-test-scores-dive-district-lookup/>)

We will continue to monitor the data, and through the Sacramento Community Literacy Map, we will be able to understand, by school site, the impacts of COVID and how our community is responding.

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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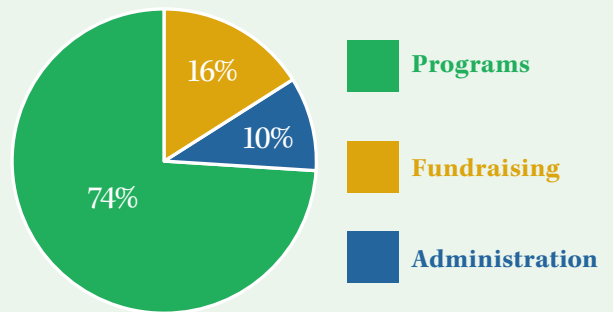
Contributions received Sept 10, 2022 through November 1, 2022.

2022 Foundation Financial Overview

Each year we hire an independent auditor to make sure that donors can be confident that our financial policies and procedures meet and exceed financial requirements set forward by the IRS and the California Attorney General. We will complete our audit in early 2023 and anticipate receiving an unmodified opinion for the 12th consecutive year.

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT WENT: BY THE NUMBERS

Projects and Programs	\$ 573,804
Foundation Administration	\$ 74,625
Foundation Fundraising	\$ 124,707



ENDOWMENT PERFORMANCE (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2022	Annual Return*
Children's Literacy Endowment	\$ 1,095,391	\$ 903,035	-14%
SLF Operation Endowment	\$ 72,181	\$ 174,969	-13%

*Includes distributions, deposits, withdrawals, and fees. Our 990s and audited financial statements will be available on our website on February 1, 2022 at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/financial-information.