

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

## Leadership

**As we celebrate Sacramento Literacy Month this September,** our message is, “systemic change requires leadership.” Leadership from the top of organizations and leadership from those working on the ground floor. Change is more likely to happen when leadership from within the system and outside the system can find common ground.

The Literacy Movement in the United States is attracting leaders from all of these directions and change is happening. States are passing legislation requiring the integration of the Science of Reading in elementary school classrooms. According to *Education Week*, since 2013, 32 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws or implemented new policies related

to evidence-based reading instruction. Mississippi passed Science of Reading legislation in 2013 and is now boasting 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading rates of 85%. That legislation started with a grassroots “Run for Literacy.”

Emily Hanford, a Media Producer and Correspondent has made it her personal mission to inform communities, parents, policy makers, and educators about the Science of Reading, why it works, and why other approaches don’t work as well. When parents heard her most recent series, “*Sold a Story*” which details the surprise many parents experienced during COVID when they learned their kids could not read, the literacy movement grew.

The newly named Sacramento Literacy Coalition is bringing together local

lead·er·ship  
noun

1. the action of leading a group of people or an organization.

“different styles of leadership”

education leaders, elected officials, community organizers, philanthropists, parents and students so that we can work together to change how our kids are taught to read in school and at home.



**Join us for our first annual Literacy Summit as we come together - from inside and out - to help all of our kids achieve grade-level reading.**

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## SAVE THE DATE!

Authors on the Move! 2024

**On March 9, Authors on the Move 2024** will be held at the Kimpton Sawyer. We are so excited to welcome Rabih Alameddine, author of *The Wrong End of the Telescope*, which won the 2022 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

**For sponsorship information please reach out to April at 916-836-3540 or email [april@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:april@sacramentoliteracy.org)**

# SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



2901 K Street, Suite 204  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 836-3540 • [sacramentoliteracy.org](http://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 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

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ahamadou Bocar, President  
Randy Getz, Vice President  
Denise Timmons, Secretary  
Sean Burke, Treasurer  
Clark Carter  
Robert Honaker  
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## FOUNDATION STAFF

April L. Javist, Executive Director  
Messiah Millares, Fundraising Associate

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.



## Promise Zone Literacy Initiative



**In May 2023**, we gave **2,100** kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders a bag of five high-quality diverse books. The first 1,500 bags went to Promise Zone schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District. Through additional community partners we also reached Earl Warren and Leataata Floyd before the summer break.

In June, we were selected as a recipient of the Arts and Cultural Nonprofit Recovery Program Award which will help us gift

another **1,000** kids with diverse high-quality books and provide free books to kids of all ages at the Sacramento Literacy Festival happening on the last day of Literacy Month, Saturday, September 30, 2023.

Executive Director, April Javist, notes **“Giving diverse high-quality books to our most under resourced children is a small and big thing – in addition to increasing motivation to read, these kids are acquiring an expectation of seeing themselves. Very powerful.”**

## Summer Reading Grant Recipients: Program Highlight



This quarter, we highlight **Escape Velocity**, a summer reading program we are supporting through our Children's Literacy Endowment.

Escape Velocity Resource Foundation's (Escape Velocity) mission is to support and provide resources to African American/Black youth and their families who are living in Sacramento's most marginalized communities. The name 'Escape Velocity' draws inspiration from a

physics term denoting the minimum speed required to break free from gravitational forces. Gravity represents the cycle of poverty that entraps underserved communities.

With literacy as a main focus, Escape Velocity offers various literacy programs including an all-boys club, *Boys in the Hood*, and an all-girls book club, *All Around the Way*. The Foundation's Summer Reading grant helped fund Escape Velocity's Summer Reading Challenge, a program that combines essential elements of reading and writing skills with active family engagement, and exposure to diverse high-quality books. The program served 30 plus kids between the ages of 8-14 this summer and has created an environment that is 'safe, accessible, inclusive, and diverse (SAID).'

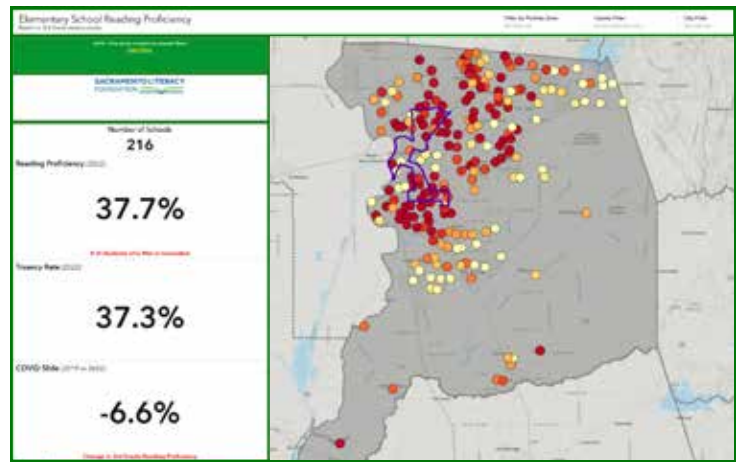
**To learn more about Escape Velocity or to join their volunteer team visit: <https://escapevelocityfoundation.com/volunteer/>**

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sacramento County Literacy Report Card Issued

## The fifth annual Literacy Report Card

measuring Sacramento County Literacy Rates is out! While COVID had a huge impact on children sliding back in their reading skills the exact impact is hard to measure. Truancy has nearly doubled since COVID-19 and pre-school enrollment has dropped. To read the full report card, go to:

<https://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/literacy-map/>



# September is Sacramento’s Literacy Month!

We are celebrating, advocating and collaborating to help all children in Sacramento read at grade-level.



## Right to Read: The Greatest Civil Rights Issue of Our Time

Thursday, September 28, 2023  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Guild Theater | Oak Park

Join us for this exclusive Sacramento showing of the film, *The Right to Read, the Greatest Civil Rights Issue of Our Time*, at the Guild Theater in Oak Park. *The Right to Read* was executive produced by LeVar Burton and stars Kareem Weaver. This is the film every educator wants to see.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT!



[www.sacramentoliteracy.org/right-to-read/](https://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/right-to-read/)

“That’s (reading) where it begins. It’s that basic, it’s that simple. We have to care.” - LeVar Burton, Executive Producer

View the trailer. General Admission is \$25.

Tickets for Educators and Parents in the Promise Zone are free.



## Literacy Festival at Oak Park Farmers Market

Saturday, September 30, 2023  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Oak Park Farmers Market

VOLUNTEER!



[www.signup.com/go/bBhkdFQ](https://www.signup.com/go/bBhkdFQ)

Bring some chairs, bring some snacks, and settle in for this year’s Literacy Festival at the Oak Park Farmers Market. This year’s family festival will be emceed by Leticia Ordaz, Emmy award-winning anchor of KCRA News and award-winning children’s author. The festivities will include *Clean Slate*, a live band performing old school Rhythm and Blues. Families will also have access to food vouchers for the Oak Park Farmers Market (while they last), vendor booths with kids games, free books and chapter books, author readings by children’s authors and helpful information for parents from local literacy organizations.

Sign-up to volunteer and help us make the first annual Literacy Summit a big success. Use the QR code above or visit <https://signup.com/go/bBhkdFQ>.

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

## PARTNER

(\$20,000+)

City of Sacramento  
Teach For America

## READING COUNCIL

(\$5,000 - \$19,999)

American Leadership Forum  
Mt Valley  
David & Patricia Schwartz

## DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

AT&T Foundation  
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Golden 1 Credit Union  
Lori J. Gualco & David Levin  
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Robin Netzer and Mark Paul  
Jeff Reed  
David & Patricia Schwartz  
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Jeffrey Williams

## SUSTAINER

(\$500 - \$999)

Margo Kaufman  
Sean Burke  
Rachel Rios  
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The Denise and Nancy Marks  
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Walter & Cheryl Sutherland

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(\$250 - \$499)

Linda Brandenburger  
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Wade Hobbs  
Rachel Rios  
Lori J. Gualco & David Levin  
Len and Gail McCandliss  
Annette Romani  
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Susan Wheeler

## GIVER

(\$100 - \$249)

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Balingit  
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Norman & Barbara Black  
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Jerrold A. and Kathryn Bruns  
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Stephanie Tucker  
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## IN MEMORY OF

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Jim Creeger  
Nancy Lawrence  
Marianne Rayburn  
Nona Segal

## IN HONOR OF

Edith Shelley Chapin

## NAMED ENDOWMENTS

Frances Algeo  
Daniel & Rhea Brunner  
David & Maxine Clark Family  
Fund  
Sandra & Steven Felderstein  
Indru & Pramila Kriplani Trust  
Nancy Lawrence & Gordon  
Klein  
Beth Mullen  
Dennis & Nancy Marks  
Lois Ann Rosenberg

*Contributions received May 6, 2023  
through August 8, 2023*



## Volunteer Spotlight: Nana

**Nana has been volunteering for the Foundation since 2017 and she is only a senior in high school.** Nana Cisse Bocar Alainchar helped us make Authors on the Move 2022 and 2023 - total successes! She helped us get books in kids hands and homes, helped with our direct mail, and made phone calls to donors.

Nana is a senior at Inderkum High School and wants to study biochemistry to become a doctor - she hopes to attend college abroad. Nana's time spent with us has helped solidify her belief in the importance of children's literacy and how, according to Nana, "Early reading cultivates future leaders and independent thinkers." Reading "takes [them] anywhere they can imagine." Nana is an avid reader

herself and is currently reading *Musophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain* by Oliver Sacks.

**Thank you, Nana – We are thrilled you have chosen to spend your volunteer time with us!**