



Sacramento County READS

Empower Youth Through Literacy

Join the Movement for a Brighter Future



Literacy levels greatly affect people's economic and health outcomes—poor reading skills are linked to higher unemployment and higher rates of incarceration. The Sacramento County Office of Education is dedicated to making sure all students in the county can read proficiently by the time they graduate high school, so they can fully engage in their communities and participate in our democracy.

Recent test results in Sacramento County show a serious need to improve reading skills. Over 56% of students are not reading at grade level, and there are big gaps in reading performance between different student groups. Only 22% of foster youth, 20% of homeless students, 25% of African American students, 11% of English learners, and 16% of students with disabilities are meeting or exceeding the state standards for English Language Arts.



To ensure that all children learn to read in Sacramento County, reading instruction must be based on proven research and our schools and classrooms must be set up to provide support to those students who need additional help to learn to read. Studies show that when students are identified early through universal screening, they are less likely to need intensive help as they get older.

The Sacramento County READS initiative is designed to address these challenges and together with educators, community partners, and families and caregivers, ensure that we change outcomes for our young people.

The following beliefs guide our work:



CENTERING THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS

We believe that family involvement is key to helping children become strong readers. When families actively support their child's reading journey — by talking and reading together, encouraging a love for books, and staying engaged with their progress — children are more likely to develop strong literacy skills. This foundation not only boosts academic success but also fosters confidence, critical thinking, and a lifelong love for learning.



A COMMITMENT TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

We commit to promoting diversity in language and culture while providing resources aligned to evidence-based reading methods to boost student engagement and success. We prioritize continuous learning and coaching for educators and staff at all levels, using assessments, including universal screening, to guide instruction. Our goal is to build a strong educational system where effective reading practices are implemented from early childhood, to high school, through adult education, ensuring that all students, inclusive of language, background, or disability, have access to high-quality materials and instruction.



PRIORITIZING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We pledge to support community literacy programs, especially those that provide access to diverse books for a wide range of readers, and encourage family involvement, to build a culture of reading and lifelong learning. We are committed to partnerships that strengthen literacy efforts and ensure that every child and youth in Sacramento County has an equal chance to succeed in reading.