

A woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, is sitting on a green lawn. She is holding an open book and looking at it. A young boy with glasses, wearing a green polo shirt, is sitting next to her, looking at the book. In the background, other people are blurred, suggesting a campus setting.

Open Books:

San Joaquin Literacy Report Card

UNIVERSITY OF THE
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BEYOND OUR GATES

Reading by Third A Call to Action

Students in the third grade are still learning to read, developing the grasp of phonics and building the vocabulary it takes to digest printed material. After third grade, the focus shifts: Students read to learn, relying on a strong foundation in reading and writing to process the increasingly complex information presented to them in textbooks.

Children who aren't strong readers by the end of third grade fall behind — and studies suggest many of them never catch up. Every year in San Joaquin County, thousands of children leave third grade unable to read proficiently, a setback with dire implications for their future education and employment, and for the community's economic health.

The problem is serious, but not unsolvable. Research continues to demonstrate that the challenges confronting

our region — crime and unemployment rates that are too high, and education and income levels that are too low — are most effectively addressed early in an individual's life, and it is encouraging to know that dozens of local agencies already have developed programs to support and enhance early literacy. Now we must channel that commitment and expertise in ways that focus strategically on the factors that most significantly influence reading ability, especially school readiness, parent engagement and access to enrichment opportunities. With this countywide Literacy Snapshot, we aim to draw attention to the importance of early literacy and to chart progress toward improved reading ability over time. We believe that by working in alliance and holding ourselves collectively accountable for results, we can help secure a promising future for our children and our community.

San Joaquin Literacy Report Card: 2012

How to Read This Report

 Better than or equal to California average	 Worse than California average	 Result improved compared to previous year	 Result deteriorated compared to previous year	 Result unchanged
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Third Grade English Language Arts Proficiency

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
36%		

The California Standards Test evaluates proficiency in subjects including literacy. The percentage of San Joaquin County students scoring at grade-level or higher on the language-arts section of the test is unchanged since 2011 and lags behind the statewide rate of 48 percent. During the 2011-12 school year, about 6,200 local third graders were unable to meet grade-level expectations in the language arts.

Source: California Department of Education, 2012

Preschool Enrollment

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
42%		

The percentage of San Joaquin County 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool increased from 39 percent in 2009. Statewide, preschool enrollment is 50 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

New Mothers Without a High School Diploma

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
30%		

Academic achievement is tightly connected to parent education level, especially the mother's. Statewide, 22 percent of new moms lack a high school diploma.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Truancy Rate

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
30%		

Poor reading ability in the early grades has been closely linked with poor attendance. In 2011, more than 39,000 local students had three or more unexcused absences from school.

Source: California Department of Education, 2011

Library Books Borrowed Per Capita

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
2.7		

Public libraries play a leading role in making accessible both books and literacy services. Statewide, Californians borrow about 6.2 books per capita. The national average is 8.1 books.

Sources: California State Library, 2011, and American Library Association, 2011



Reading Resources

Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library

209.937.8416
stockton.lib.ca.us

One-on-one assistance for adults who need help learning to read; regular story times for children ages 0 to 5; special events, tutoring, book clubs and other programs at branches located throughout the county.

Lodi Public Library

209.333.5566
loidi.gov/library

One-one-one tutoring in math and reading for adults; book clubs, computer access, homework help and story hours, including English-Spanish story hour.

Read To Me, Stockton!

209.472.9662
ReadToMeStockton.org

Qualifying children, ages 0 to 5, receive a book, delivered by mail, each month. Program launched in the 95205 Zip code and is expanding to other areas.

San Joaquin A+

209.462.6132
sanjoaquinaplus.wix.com/san-joaquin-a-plus

Supports literacy programs, such as tutoring and educator awards, throughout the county.

Bring Me A Book

209.244.5319
BringMeABook.org

Donates books and bookcase libraries to children in underserved communities; offers workshops for parents and child care providers; supports lending libraries for businesses and nonprofits.

Book Buddies

go.Pacific.edu/BookBuddies
209.946.2675 **Spanish: 209.946.2677**

Each week, children spend an hour reading with credential candidates from University of the Pacific's Benerd School of Education.

Friends Of The Stockton Library Book Store

209.476.9033
1724 W. Hammer Lane, Stockton

Low-cost used books, including a large children's section.

Raising A Reader

209.953.5437
sjcKids.org

Circulates high-quality children's books, establishes family habits of reading and builds kindergarten-readiness. Offered via agencies throughout the county. Contact First 5 San Joaquin for locations.

For a more extensive listing of local agencies that offer literacy services, go to go.Pacific.edu/LitPrograms
For further assistance, contact Jennifer Torres Siders (University of the Pacific):
209.946.3134 or jtorressiders@pacific.edu