



Open Books:
San Joaquin Literacy Report Card • 2013



BEYOND OUR GATES

Reading ability at the end of third grade is a critical milestone on a child's educational path. Students who can read at grade-level when they leave third grade have mastered the basic literacy skills they'll continue to build on in years to come.

But children who aren't strong readers by the end of third grade fall behind — and many of them never catch up. Unfortunately in San Joaquin County last year, 66 percent of third graders — or nearly 7,000 children — left third grade unable to read proficiently, a setback with dire implications for their future education and employment.

The problem is serious, but not unsolvable. Organizations and individuals throughout San Joaquin County have come together in an effort to improve early literacy through the Beyond Our Gates Reading by Third initiative. Working in collaboration, we seek to focus local

Reading by Third A Call to Action

commitment and expertise on the factors that most significantly influence literacy development: school readiness, parent engagement, attendance and enrichment.

Our goals are ambitious, and already we are encouraged by promising developments: This second-annual edition of the San Joaquin Literacy Report Card shows that more local 3- and 4-year-olds are enrolled in preschool than in years past, meaning more of our children will be better prepared to start kindergarten. We also see that the county's truancy rate has dropped; consistent school attendance yields improved school achievement.

Clearly, much remains to be done. But we believe that by working in alliance and holding ourselves collectively accountable for results, we are helping to secure a promising future for our children and for our community.

San Joaquin Literacy Report Card: 2013

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
34%		

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 has decreased since 2012 and lags behind the statewide rate of 46 percent. During the 2012–13 school year, nearly 7,000 local third graders were unable to meet grade-level expectations in the language arts.

Source: California Department of Education, 2013

Preschool Enrollment

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
46.3%		

The percentage of San Joaquin County 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool increased from 42 percent in 2010. Statewide, preschool enrollment is nearly 50 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

New Mothers Without a High School Diploma

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
23%		

Academic achievement is tightly connected to parent education level, especially the mother's. Statewide, 21 percent of new moms lack a high school diploma.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011

Truancy Rate

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
28.5%		

Poor reading ability in the early grades has been closely linked with poor attendance. In 2012, more than 41,000 local students had three or more unexcused absences from school.

Source: California Department of Education, 2012

Library Books Borrowed Per Capita

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
2.7		

Public libraries play a leading role in making both books and literacy services accessible. Statewide, Californians borrow about 6.4 books per capita.

Source: California State Library, 2012



Reading Resources

Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library

209.937.8221

SSJCPL.org

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

Lodi Public Library

209.333.5566

Lodi.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

Children, ages 0 to 5, can receive a book, delivered by mail, each month. Program available in the 95205, 95206, 95202 and 95210 zip codes.

San Joaquin A+

209.462.6113

SanJoaquinAPlus.wix.com/San-Joaquin-A-Plus

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

Bring Me A Book

650.625.5000

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

209.946.2677

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.

Reach Out and Read San Joaquin

ReachOutReadSJ@aol.com

ReachOutAndRead.org

Establishes family habits of reading by equipping doctors to provide parents with high-quality books at well-baby and well-child pediatric checkups.

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