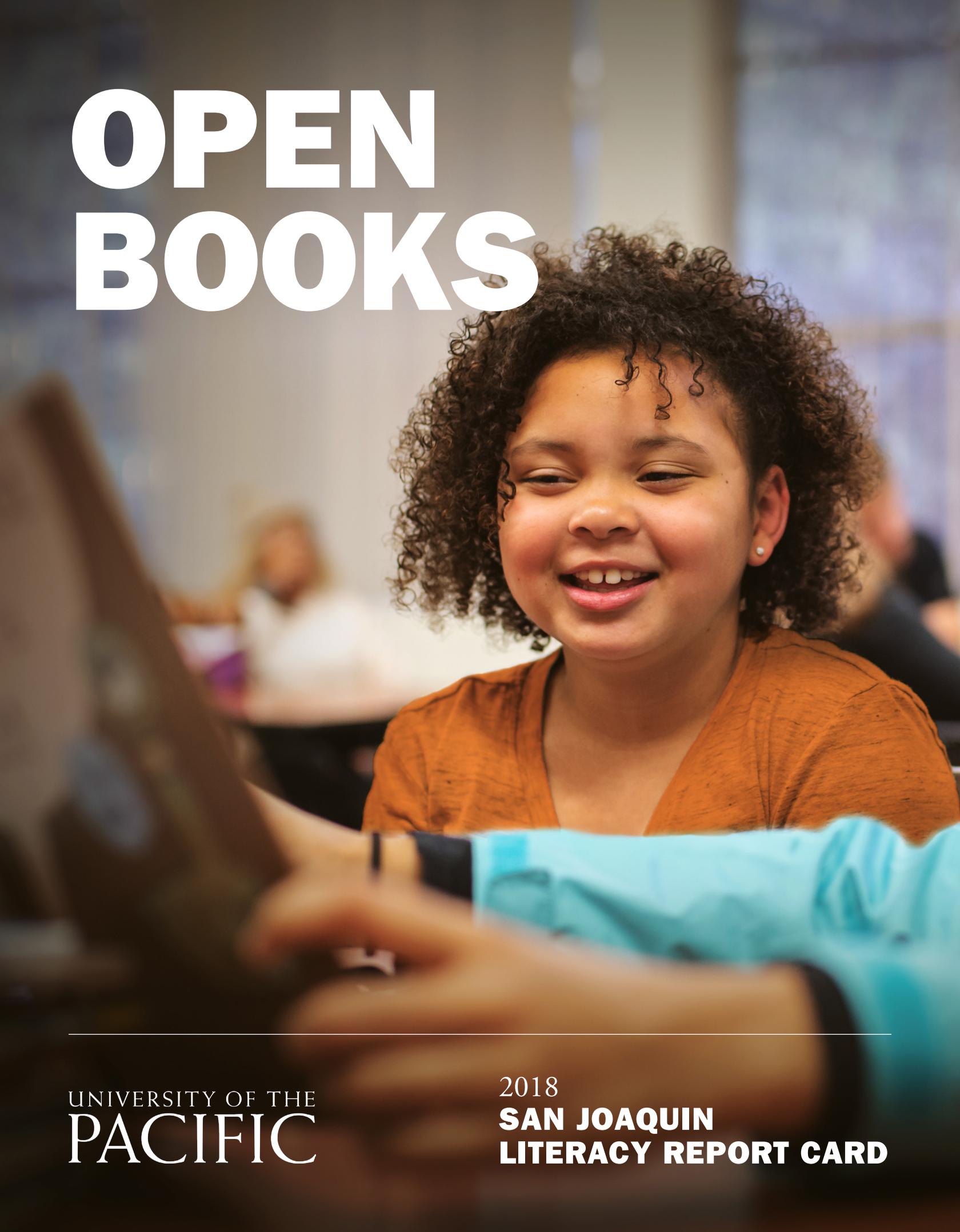


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2018
**SAN JOAQUIN
LITERACY REPORT CARD**

2018 SAN JOAQUIN LITERACY REPORT CARD

focuses on four key early literacy metrics:

- 1 Third-grade English language proficiency
- 2 Chronic absenteeism
- 3 Preschool enrollment
- 4 New mothers without a high school diploma

1 THIRD-GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Improvement continues, but more progress is needed.

The importance of grade-level reading by third grade has been emphasized by education experts nationwide for the past decade. This oft-repeated phrase sums up the importance: “Up to third-grade, children learn to read. After third grade, children read to learn.”

That means children who lag behind by third grade often don’t catch up. Research shows those students are more likely to drop out of school and face societal issues such as unemployment, the need for public assistance and, in some cases, incarceration.

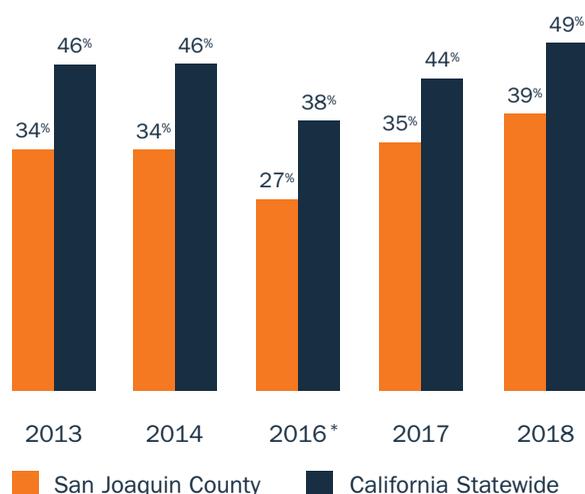
The progress for this literacy report card is significant, but once again the need for further improvement is quite obvious. The percentage of county children reading at or above grade level by third improved to 39, a sizeable increase from the 35 percent attainment in the 2017 report card. San Joaquin County continues to trail the state average, which was 49 percent for the 2017–18 school year.

Most of the larger school districts in San Joaquin County remain below the state average, notably Stockton Unified School District:

Lincoln Unified	48.2%
Lodi Unified	42.7%
Manteca Unified	42.2%
Stockton Unified	24.5%
Tracy Unified	40.0%

Third-Grade English Language Proficiency Report Card

Source: California Department of Education



*A report card was not issued in 2015

There has been a significant climb since the 2016 report card, when grade-level reading by third stood at 27 percent in San Joaquin County. It should be noted that scores throughout the state had a sharp decrease that year with changes in the content and delivery (computer-based rather than paper-and-pencil) of the standardized test. Stockton Unified School District Superintendent John Deasy, in an interview with The Record, said the district must improve in all standardized test areas, including English language proficiency and math.

“We can, must and will do better,” Deasy said. “Our students, families and community are counting on us. To succeed, we must share an unshakeable belief that all of our students can achieve at high levels.”

The English language proficiency and chronic absenteeism results for individual school sites are available on the California Department of Education’s web site: » [DQ.CDE.ca.gov/DataQuest](https://dq.cde.ca.gov/DataQuest)

PACIFIC'S BEYOND OUR GATES PROGRAM

A collective-impact effort of more than 75 local agencies, Pacific's Beyond our Gates Program continues to focus on improving childhood literacy in San Joaquin County. As part of the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading, Pacific is the only private university or college serving as a lead agency among the almost 400 communities that make up the national campaign.

2 CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Area districts intensify focus, but results must improve.

In line with a change in focus at the state level, chronic absenteeism replaces truancy in this year's report card.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more days a student was expected to attend for any reason, including illness. Truancy, on the other hand, tracks only unexcused absences.

The California Department of Education recently released chronic absenteeism rates for school districts and individual schools. Overall, San Joaquin County schools regressed slightly to 14.3 percent in the 2017–18 school year (13.9 percent in 2016–17). The state average also rose to 11.1 percent from 10.8 the previous year.

Chronic Absenteeism Report Card

Source: California Department of Education

	2017	2018
Escalon Unified	8.4%	5.5%
Lincoln Unified	12.6%	13.5%
Linden Unified	10.5%	10.5%
Lodi Unified	12.7%	12.7%
Manteca Unified	10.6%	11.0%
Ripon Unified	12.5%	14.6%
Stockton Unified	18.0%	19.9%
Tracy Unified	10.4%	10.7%
San Joaquin County	13.9%	14.3%
California Statewide	10.8%	11.1%

Some noteworthy findings in the data:

- » Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) regressed with 19.9 percent of students chronically absent, up from 18 percent the previous year.
- » Despite that dip, some SUSD schools that strongly emphasized everyday attendance showed promising results. Those included A.G. Spanos Elementary at 9.9 percent, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary at 11.2 and Nightingale Elementary at 12.1.
- » Particularly troubling were the results in Stockton Unified high schools: Stagg at 35.6 percent; Edison, 31.5; Chavez, 25.7; and Franklin, 24.9.
- » That level of chronic absenteeism at the high schools was not present in most other school districts. Examples include these high schools: Sierra at 5 percent; Bear Creek, 9.8; Lodi, 10.5; Tokay, 11.4; West, 11.6; Lincoln, 12.4; and East Union, 12.4.
- » Escalon Unified excelled with only 5.5 percent of students chronically absent district-wide.

The 2017–18 statistics were compiled before the annual Beyond Our Gates Every Day Counts Attendance Challenge, which saw more than 35,000 K–8 students from 122 registered schools achieve perfect attendance in September 2018, which was National Attendance Month. We are hopeful the emphasis on attendance county-wide will impact the 2018–19 scores positively.

“Chronic absenteeism is a crisis in California that negatively impacts achievement. Recent studies have shown that chronic absenteeism that starts as early as kindergarten can cause students to be significantly behind in reading skills by third grade,” said Thomas Torlakson, outgoing State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

3 PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Only 4 of 10 county children enter kindergarten with preschool backgrounds.

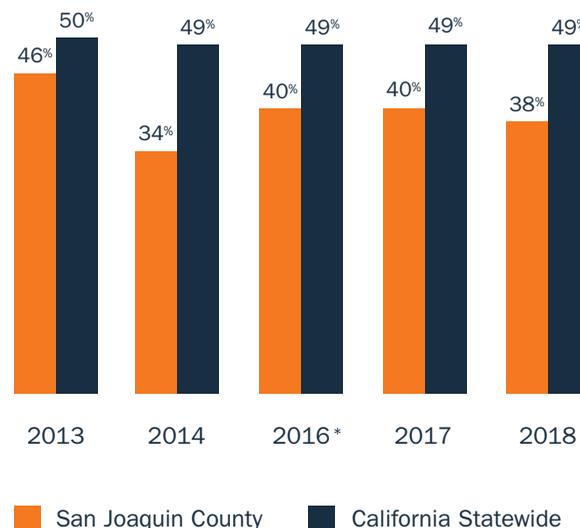
Children who attend preschool tend to enter kindergarten much more prepared to read and have a better chance for consistent growth in overall academic achievement. San Joaquin County's preschool enrollment rate of 38 percent for this report card is a dip from last year (40 percent), according to U.S. Census data.

Over the past six report cards, the rate has remained relatively flat with approximately 4 in every 10 children of preschool age in the county enrolled in preschool programs. The overall California average has remained close to 50 percent and was 49 percent for this report card.

We are watching to see if a change in the governor's office will impact preschool enrollment. Under Gov. Jerry Brown, the number of child care slots, subsidized preschool opportunities and transitional kindergarten classes increased, but he was against the so-called "preschool for all" concept.

Preschool Enrollment Report Card

Source: U.S. Census Data



The push for universal preschool could intensify under new governor Gavin Newsom, who made it a key part of his election platform. Said Newsom about universal preschool in an interview with EdSource: "It's not a 'nice-to-have.' It's a 'must-have' in the world (in which) we are living."

4 NEW MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

County remains fairly consistent, with room for improvement.

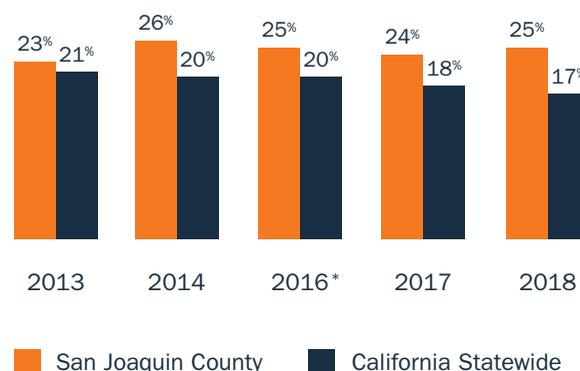
Research has shown that mothers without a high school diploma are more likely to drop out of high school, less likely to attend college and can have their overall academic path stunted. This, in turn, can negatively impact the academic success of their children.

Since the San Joaquin County Literacy Report Card debuted in 2012, the percentage of new mothers without a diploma has improved from 30 percent in 2012 to 25 percent in 2018. There was, however, a one percentage point increase from 2017 to 2018.

The county has consistently lagged behind the state average. California as a whole has steadily improved and now stands at 17 percent.

New Mothers Without A High School Diploma Report Card

Source: U.S. Census Data



*A report card was not issued in 2015