



Open Books:

San Joaquin Literacy Report Card • 2015–16



Reading by Third | A Call to Action

In 2015, the California Department of Education released the first student scores from its new Common Core-based standardized testing system. According to education officials, the new standards were designed to better prepare children with the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills on which their futures — and our state's — depend.

We cannot compare this year's results to those of previous versions of the test, but we can still use the scores to set a baseline for future progress and to focus our attention on areas of concern. And in that light, the results are clear: We must redouble our efforts to ensure all San Joaquin County children are strong readers by the end of third grade.

Research tells us that third-grade reading ability is a key predictor of future academic achievement. Children who aren't strong readers by the end of third grade tend to fall behind — and are at increased risk of dropping out of high school. It is of serious concern, then, that nearly 3 in 4 local students are falling short of the third-grade literacy benchmark.

While this 2015–16 edition of the San Joaquin Literacy Report Card underscores the magnitude of our challenge, it also calls our attention to some promising developments. In 2012, individuals and organizations from throughout San Joaquin County made a collective commitment to improve early literacy as part of University of the Pacific's Beyond Our Gates initiative. Since then, we have seen some gains in the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool and in the number of students with good school attendance habits; we have also seen a drop in the percentage of new mothers who lack a high school diploma — all contributing factors to early literacy success. And although circulation remains flat, we celebrate the ongoing restoration and expansion of literacy services offered through our public library system.

Perhaps most significantly, though, we have begun to build a collaborative process for community problem solving, one we can use to foster educational opportunity well into the future.

San Joaquin Literacy Report Card: 2015

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
27%		n/a

This year's test results are the first to measure students' mastery of California's Common Core State Standards. Not only did the content of the exam change, but so did delivery—computer-based rather than paper-and-pencil—so we cannot compare this year's results to scores from previous years. As in previous years, however, the percentage of San Joaquin County students scoring at grade level was lower than the statewide average of 38 percent.

California Department of Education, 2015

Preschool Enrollment

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
40%		

As the economy has improved, so too has the percentage of San Joaquin County 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool, up from 34 percent in 2012. Still, local preschool attendance continues to lag behind the statewide average of 49 percent and has never hit the 50 percent mark.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014

New Mothers Without a High School Diploma

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
25%		

A child's academic achievement is closely connected to the education level of his or her parents, especially the mother. In 2013, 26 percent of new moms lacked a high school diploma. The statewide average is 20 percent.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014

Truancy Rate

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
24%		

Poor reading ability in the early grades is linked to poor attendance. The local truancy rate continues to improve and is better than the statewide average of 31 percent.

Source: California Department of Education, 2014

Library Books Borrowed Per Capita

Rate	California Comparison	Trend
2.6		

Public libraries play a key role in making books and literacy services accessible. Local library circulation has remained flat since 2013. Statewide, Californians borrow about 8.3 books and other materials per capita.

California State Library, 2014



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 storytimes for children; special events, tutoring, book clubs and other programs at branches located throughout the county.

Lodi Public Library

209.333.5566 | Library.Lodi.gov

One-on-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.

Little Free Library – Stockton

Facebook.com/LittleFreeLibraryStocktonm

A community effort to place 100 small, free lending libraries in neighborhoods throughout Stockton.

Book Buddies

209.946.2677 | go.Pacific.edu/BookBuddies

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

RORSJ209@aol.com | ReachOutAndRead.org

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

Summer Learning Guides

go.Pacific.edu/SummerLearning

Free and low-cost activities and resources to support literacy while school is out of session.

Books on Buses

209.943.1111 | SanJoaquinRTD.com/Books

San Joaquin Regional Transit district provides children's books for young riders and their families to enjoy while on the bus.

For information on how to support local literacy programs, visit go.Pacific.edu/SupportLiteracy.

For further assistance, contact Jennifer Torres Siders (University of the Pacific): 209.946.3134 or jtorressiders@pacific.edu