



ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

SACRAMENTO

Community Snapshot

Founded in 1849, Sacramento is the 36th-largest city in the United States and the oldest incorporated city in California. Migrants poured into the region to seek their fortunes during the Gold Rush, and this diversity and entrepreneurial spirit remain vital even now in the city's identity. Sacramento is a growing, vibrant and culturally diverse city. No single racial group or ethnic community represents even half of the population. Sacramento is also a young city, with 25 percent of its residents under the age of 18. In 2008, former pro basketball player Kevin Johnson became the first African-American and native Sacramentan to serve as mayor. He chairs the Education Reform Task Force of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Community Solutions Action Plan

Sacramento plans to achieve its grade-level reading goals based on the following strategies:

- Promote public awareness of school readiness and increase availability of high-quality child care and preschool
- Implement the District Attendance Tracking Tool to allow school districts to upload attendance data and receive a chronic absence analysis within hours
- Implement Summer Advantage USA, an academically rigorous program designed to increase children's knowledge and mastery of the basic skills of reading, writing and math

Partnerships

In August 2011, a coalition of community partners launched the Sacramento READS! Third Grade Literacy Campaign to close the achievement gap and improve reading proficiency. Partners include the Elk Grove, Natomas, Robla, Sacramento City and Twin Rivers school districts; Sacramento County Office of Education; City-Schools Collaborative; STAND UP; St. Hope; United Way California Capital Region; First Five Sacramento; SETA Head Start; Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services; Volunteer Sacramento; Hands On Sacramento; California State University, Sacramento; Sacramento Public Library; Sacramento Public Library Foundation; AARP; Attendance Works; Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento; Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks; Child Action, Inc.; KVIE public television; Reading Partners; Sacramento Children's Home; Sacramento County Foster Grandparent Program; Sacramento START; Scholastic Books; Target: Excellence; University of Phoenix; Old Soul, Co. and IBM. Funders include W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Tides Foundation, Sierra Health Foundation and Knowledge Universe.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 460,000 residents
- Approximately 48,000 students
- 65 percent of third-graders qualify for free or reduced-price meals
- Approximately 37 percent of third graders read at grade level (state reading assessment)
- More than one-third of students English language learners
- 81 percent graduation rate
- 34 percent are ready for kindergarten
- System has incomplete data on chronic absence
- 6 percent of students in need of enrichment have access to summer programming

GOALS (BY 2020)

- 80 percent of third-grade students reading at grade level
- Students will attend school 95 percent of the time
- 80 percent of students prepared for school
- 80 percent of students in need of enrichment get summer programming

"We don't think small. We dream big. We don't step back. We leap forward. We stop trying to lower the bar for ourselves individually, and start raising the bar for ourselves collectively. We don't avoid our biggest problems. We attack them with more determination than ever."
– Mayor Kevin Johnson