



# ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

## TAHOE TRUCKEE REGION, CALIF.

### Community Snapshot

Nestled in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the Tahoe Truckee region is famous for the coldest temperatures, deepest lakes and some of the highest mountain passes in California. The history of the region is rich in stories about immigrants and hardy mountain explorers. Tahoe Truckee encompasses parts of four counties that are cut off by a mountain pass from their county seats, governmental resources and population centers. Work is often seasonal, low-paying and fluctuates with snowfall levels and hotel occupancy rates. Housing, food and gas costs are higher than average. The region, however, does not have the high wages that other areas with a similar cost of living enjoy, and it was hit hard by the most recent economic downturn. The experience of being isolated has given the community a strong history of self-reliance.

### Community Solutions Action Plan

The Tahoe Truckee Reads Campaign has created a comprehensive strategy to boost third-grade reading based on the following focus areas:

- Reading proficiency
- School readiness
- School attendance
- Summer reading
- Education, public awareness and increased coordination
- System change to better assess and track data in each of the focus areas

### Partnerships

This plan to ensure that more children from the Tahoe Truckee region are reading at grade level by the end of third grade was submitted by a team of well-established partners, including the Excellence in Education Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, Placer County Health and Human Services and First 5 Nevada County.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

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- 30,000 residents
- 4,000 students
- 42 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals
- 53 percent of students read at grade level
- 27 percent of the class of 2009 dropped out before graduation
- 42 percent of students are ready for kindergarten
- 8 percent of students miss more than a month of school per year
- Area lacks affordable and accessible summer programming

### GOALS

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- Increase percentage of students reading at grade level to 80 percent
- No K-3 students will miss four or more weeks of school per year
- Increase school preparedness to 80 percent
- Have 75 percent of students who read below grade level participate in summer reading programs

*“We are a rural community that comes together when need arises to do amazing things for our families and schools.”*