

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SACRAMENTO COUNTY READS BOARD LITERACY RESOLUTION**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-18

WHEREAS, the Sacramento County Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all youth in the region are fully literate when they graduate from high school and are able to fully participate in their community and our democracy;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that literacy levels profoundly influence socioeconomic and health outcomes, with a direct correlation between low literacy and unemployment, part-time employment, and higher incarceration rates;

WHEREAS, the statewide assessment results for Sacramento County show a dire need for literacy improvement in the region. A significant portion of Sacramento's students are below proficient reading levels, and there are significant inequities in reading performance between student groups, particularly impacting foster youth, homeless, African American, English learners, and students with disabilities;

WHEREAS, the Board supports evidence-aligned reading instruction and coherent systems of support, grounded in the science of reading, which is proven to significantly enhance reading and literacy skills.

WHEREAS, research has shown that struggling readers, including those at risk for, or with, dyslexia, whose needs are identified early using universal screening are less likely to need intensive support in later grades;

WHEREAS, the Sacramento County Office of Education has statewide expertise in improving literacy outcomes utilizing these concepts. With its Sacramento County READS partners, it has developed Guiding Principles to be implemented in their entirety. Specifically, the Guiding Principles call for:

1. Designing educational systems where science of reading practices thrive from early learning through adult education.
2. Ensuring equitable access to high-quality instructional materials and practices for every learner, inclusive of all languages, backgrounds and disabilities.
3. Promoting linguistic and cultural diversity in reading and literacy education.
4. Allocating resources to support implementation of science of reading aligned practices.
5. Developing and empowering literacy leaders at all levels of the organization through ongoing professional development and coaching.
6. Utilizing comprehensive literacy assessment systems, including universal screening, to inform instruction.
7. Addressing individual student needs through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, using data-based decision making and continuous improvement.

8. Engaging family and community partners in opportunities and activities grounded in the science of reading.
9. Hiring well-trained educators aligned to the Sacramento County READS mission and vision.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento County Board of Education hereby:

1. Recognizes that implementing Sacramento County READ's Guiding Principles will improve literacy outcomes in the Sacramento region if they are implemented with fidelity. Accordingly, the Board encourages the wide-spread dissemination and utilization of the Guiding Principles to promote reading and literacy success for all learners, thus allowing students greater opportunities in post-secondary education and employment, and to fully participate in their community and our democracy;
2. Commits to supporting community literacy initiatives, especially those that promote family engagement, to foster a culture of literacy and lifelong learning in Sacramento County;
3. Resolves to actively support partnerships in service of literacy initiatives aligned with the Guiding Principles in order to achieve equitable literacy outcomes for all children and youth across Sacramento County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento County Board of Education at its regular Board meeting on the 10th day of September 2024 by the following vote:

AYES	_____	_____
NOES	_____	_____
ABSENT	_____	_____
ABSTAIN	_____	_____

O. Alfred Brown, Sr.
Board President

David W. Gordon
Board Secretary