

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Literacy Lead Agency Project Overview

Statewide Literacy Priority: Priority 6

Grades six through twelve programs that build school capacity for effective literacy and comprehensive English Language Development for English learner (EL) students, including opportunities to develop biliteracy and primary language instruction whenever possible.

Literacy Lead Agency: Tulare County Office of Education

Consortium Members: Kings County Office of Education, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Madera County Superintendent of Schools, Merced County Office of Education, Mariposa County Office of Education

Project Name: The Readership Project

Project Overview: Key activities include improving literacy for EL students by expanding access to culturally relevant texts and taking an asset-based approach by:

- Providing professional learning, including network convenings; training staff on analyzing data, effective family and community engagement, and continuous improvement, all with an asset-based approach; and offering three courses through Brandman University on Developing Community Literacy Access, Parent and Family Partnerships, and Community Literacy Intervention.
- Creating a library forum of librarians and library staff, who will curate a list of culturally diverse and relevant books with resources and guidance for districts, school, teachers, and community organizations.
- Promoting the State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB), including researching why the SSB is not often awarded in these counties and what can be done to increase the number of students earning the SSB.
- Creating a robust community and family outreach plan, including working with various community-based agencies.

The Readership Project intends to improve EL student achievement through focusing on an asset-based approach with culturally diverse and relevant texts. Teachers will learn to hold their EL students to a high standard and empower their voices, as well as provide more opportunities for EL students to obtain the SSB. They will build an extensive network of community support to ensure success. Qualitative and quantitative data will inform decisions throughout the life of the grant. Resources will be disseminated statewide, including videos, templates, checklists, a guidebook, and more.

The Readership Project will work with the following districts and schools: Visalia Unified School District, Lemoore Elementary, Liberty Middle, Lemoore High, Kerman Middle, Kerman High, Pioneer Technical Center, Chowchilla High, Washington Elementary, Bryant Middle, Mariposa High, El Portal Elementary, Mariposa Elementary, Ridgeview Middle, El Diamante High, Golden West, Monson Sultana, Oak Valley, Valley Life, Tulare Joint Union High School Tech Prep, Burton Middle, Woodville, Sunnyside, Earlimart Middle, Alta Vista, Woodlake High, and Orosi High.