


Rogue Valley Area 2020-21 Year-end Report



	Sites	Students Served	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Books Given
AREA	37	2,052	830	9,256	17,885
STATEWIDE	284	17,824	574	10,864	140,778
SINCE 1992		252,284	146,257	4,525,438	3,133,043

Another Year in the Books



The 2020-21 program year brought unprecedented changes and challenges to SMART Reading, as well as an outpouring of creativity and innovation. While we couldn't come together for in-person reading due to the coronavirus pandemic, we found new ways to lean into our mission of sparking joy and opportunity through the magic of a shared book.

Our team developed and piloted new virtual service delivery models that prioritized the health and safety of our community while continuing to provide the two research-backed strategies for literacy success that have always been the pillars of our program: access to books and reading engagement via individualized reading time.

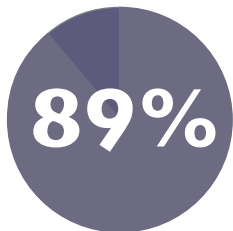
While the 2021-22 school year is full of uncertainties, we're poised to expand our virtual offerings to reach even more students, as well as return to in-person SMART as soon as it's safe to do so. With our students experiencing unprecedented interruptions in learning, they need programs like SMART Reading to nurture their literacy development and social-emotional wellness more than ever next year, and we're committed to being there for them. Thank you for being part of the SMART Reading community, and for your ongoing support and partnership in this critical work!

"My class loves the books they get to 'keep forever' Many of my students lost their homes in the devastating Alameda fire. This has been a terrific way to rebuild their home libraries. The quality of books, topics, and diversity [from SMART Reading] has been outstanding."

- Teacher, Phoenix Elementary, Phoenix

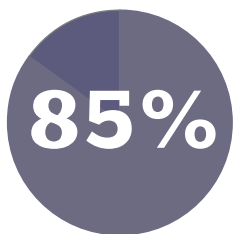
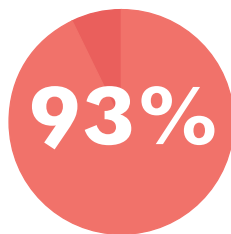
Student Milestones

We survey educators at the end of each year to gain insights about the impact of our program on their students. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive, revealing significant benefits for children participating in SMART Reading. The data below reflects feedback on our Virtual SMART model pilots.



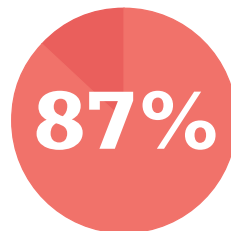
89% of students showed improved confidence in their reading skills.

93% of students showed improvement in reading motivation.



85% of students showed increased enjoyment of reading.

87% showed improvement in social and emotional development.



“My students absolutely loved doing SMART Reading virtually. The excitement would build each Monday, knowing that they would get to do SMART the next day. I never had to remind my students when it was time to go, they knew right away because they were so excited.”
- Teacher, Kennedy Elementary, Medford

Spotlight on Virtual SMART



The new model that's most similar to our standard program is Virtual SMART, which is a personalized reading experience that connects one student with two volunteers for weekly reading sessions on Zoom or Google Meet. Students and volunteers access our Virtual Storyroom where they can select from digital books in our curated

collection to read together. You can read more about Virtual SMART and our other virtual program offerings here: www.smartreading.org/covid-19.

86%
of SMART Reading kids report feeling “great” about their Virtual SMART sessions.