


South Central Area 2021-22 Year-end Report



	Sites	Students Served	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Books Given
AREA	25	1,448	63	93	8,364
STATEWIDE	255	14,453	750	10,379	124,548
SINCE 1992		266,737	147,007	4,545,817	3,257,591

A Year for the Books



The 2021-22 school year was a momentous one for SMART, as we celebrated our 30th anniversary, finalized a merger with The Children's Book Bank, underwent a leadership transition, and continued to navigate the ever-changing pandemic landscape. Through all of these changes, we've remained focused on our mission to spark joy and opportunity through the magic of a shared book. We also prioritized being a flexible partner to our schools, offering a menu of virtual and in-person program models, and continuing to ensure all SMART Reading students received new books and reading resources to keep and share with their families.

In the Klamath Basin, our site partners were thrilled to have new, high-interest books for kids to read at home and we were able to implement Classroom SMART (which you'll read more about) at nine sites, receiving great feedback from teachers and volunteers!

As we look ahead to the 2022-23 school year, we're anticipating a significant return to in-person service, while continuing to offer pandemic-era services that have proven to be valuable additions to our suite of programs. We'll also be exploring how to bring the Book Bank's model of collecting, cleaning and distributing donated books to communities across the state, including in the Klamath Basin. While we can't know for certain what the year will hold, we know that kids need the books and shared reading time that SMART provides more than ever, and we'll be there for them no matter what!

"Students are so excited to pick their new books! We love the SMART Reading program because children get to have books in their homes that otherwise they would not."

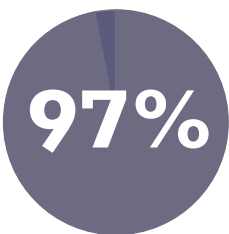
- Teacher

Spotlight on Classroom SMART

After piloting the Classroom SMART model last year at 11 sites around the state, it quickly became our most popular student engagement option this year. Based on research underscoring the importance of reading aloud to kids, this model engages a volunteer to read aloud to an entire classroom either virtually or in-person on a consistent basis. Teachers reported that it was easy to implement and a valuable complement to classroom instruction. Volunteers around the state led 1,400 Classroom SMART sessions during the 2021-22 school year.

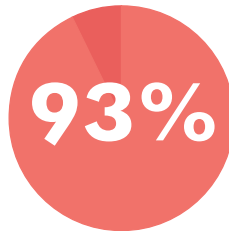


Pictured: Volunteer Andrew Stork leads a Classroom SMART session at Pelican Elementary in Klamath Falls.

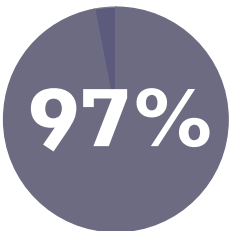


97% of educators reported that Classroom SMART contributed to improvements in enjoyment of reading.

93% of educators reported that Classroom SMART contributed to improvements in reading motivation.



“My students loved when our guest reader arrived and read to them! They were engaging and encouraged students to share their thoughts and opinions about the story!”
- Teacher



During 97% of Classroom SMART sessions, the class was engaged.



SMART Storytime Expands Access to Read-alouds

All students in SMART have access to SMART Storytime, a library of more than 230 video read-alouds created by SMART volunteers. This continues to be a popular resource for kids participating in any of the program delivery models. This year, kids and families watched over 2,258 read-alouds!

Pictured: Sample of a read-aloud video on the SMART Storytime website.

80% of SMART Reading kids and families rated SMART Storytime videos good or great.