SMART is Back in Schools!

After more than two years, the 2022-23 school year brought a much-anticipated return to in-person reading! Volunteers and students connected through books in our traditional one-on-one model and through Classroom SMART, a popular and effective pandemic adaptation where a volunteer leads interactive read-alouds for a whole classroom.

It also marked our first year as a merged organization with the Children’s Book Bank. The Book Bank’s sustainable model of collecting, refurbishing and redistributing community-donated books presents exciting opportunities to reach kids in new ways and we’ve begun exploring opportunities to expand to other communities in the coming years.

In the 2023-24 school year, we expect to reach over 21,000 students, including 12,880 locally. With kids continuing to experience negative ripple effects of the pandemic, we need our community by our side as we continue to spark joy and opportunity through the magic of a shared book.

Pictured: One-to-one SMART reading session at Hazeldale Elementary School in Beaverton.

We really do appreciate the mission, the people and the work. Thank you. I look forward to partnering with you next year!

- Teacher, Multnomah County
Program Outcomes

At the end of each year, SMART Reading surveys educators and families to gain insights about SMART’s impact on their students. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive, revealing significant benefits for participating children. The data below reflects feedback on our One-to-One SMART model.

- 89% of kids showed improvement in reading motivation
- 87% of kids showed improvement in overall reading performance
- 88% of kids showed improved reading enjoyment
- 87% of kids showed improvement in reading comprehension
- 96% of educators feel that SMART positively impacted their students and school community
- 96% of families feel that their child benefited from participating in SMART
- 94% of families reported increased engagement with books after receiving their bundle
- 96% of families reported increased engagement with books after receiving their bundle

Pictured: One-to-one SMART reading session at Greenway Elementary School in Beaverton.

I cannot say enough positive things about SMART! Our daughter went from being too afraid to try to read to currently reading a book to her sister as I write this. We are SO grateful for the help - and she is so proud of the progress she has made!

- Parent, Washington County