


SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 2023-24 Year-End Report

	Sites	Students Served	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Books Given
Area	27	1,627	408	7,660	15,876
Statewide	223	21,746	3,450	71,277	188,064
Since 1992		418,675*	150,912	4,656,858	4,737,104*

*Students served and books given reflect the cumulative historical impact of SMART Reading and the Children's Book Bank.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Readers

SMART Reading's charge has always been to help kids develop reading skills, enjoyment, and motivation. In a moment where more than 60% of Oregon third-graders are not reading on grade level, that work is needed more than ever – and we're delivering.

The 2023-24 school year was filled with successes locally and across the state as we continued to rebuild in the wake of the pandemic. Our volunteer community – 3,450 strong – stepped up in a big way, dedicating over 71,000 hours to reading with kids, overseeing programs, and refurbishing donated books. With our community's support, we reached more than 21,700 kids with one-on-one or group reading sessions and books to keep.

As we look to the future, our focus is on deepening impact for Oregon students. In the 2024-25 school year, we'll roll out in-depth volunteer training on science-based reading strategies and other key topics. We'll also continue expanding the Book Bank model to new communities so we can get more books into the hands of kids.

Thank you for your continued support as we advance our vision of an Oregon where all children can realize their full potential through reading.



[My favorite part of SMART is] seeing the looks on the kids faces when they receive a book. Also, watching them interact with the high school students they are reading with.

- Reader, South Central Area



Inspire a child's next chapter.

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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. Here are the results from the 2023-24 school year:

87% of students improved confidence in reading skills.*

88% of students improved in reading comprehension.*

91% of students increased their enjoyment of reading.*

90% of students improved in vocabulary development.*

94% of parents and caregivers feel their child benefited from participating in SMART.

97% of teachers feel SMART benefits their students and school community.

**This data reflects feedback on our One-to-One SMART model.*

This program was amazing. My child looked forward to it each week and LOVES all the books she got to take home. They were inclusive and included a variety of topics that she was already interested in AND that were new to her.

- SMART Reading Parent



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