




S M A R T
START MAKING A READER TODAY™

SMART Northeast Area 2016-17 Year-end Report

Inspire a child's next chapter

AREA	Sites	Students Served	Volunteers	Hours of Reading	Books Given
AREA	12	378	139	2,778	3,625
STATEWIDE	270	10,662	5,070	157,137	136,052
SINCE 1992		199,076	129,774	4,063,538	2,571,790

Local Snapshot

7 Cities

4 School Districts

12 Site Coordinators



Celebrating 25 Years of Reading Together

SMART's 25th year came to a close in May with the exciting news that we'd surpassed our goal of serving 10,500 children! The children's book we published in honor of this milestone was also a huge success; *Oregon Reads Aloud* sold over 2,000 copies and continues to be enjoyed by kids and adults alike.

Here in Northeastern Oregon, we are happy to report that it was another great year. We were able to reopen our program at Chenoweth Elementary in The Dalles after a one-year absence. Our annual fundraiser, The Tongue Twister Tournament, had its most successful year yet! In the coming school year, we're excited to grow our programs in Umatilla Morrow Head Start to serve even more PreK students.

In the 2017-18 year, we look forward to rolling out our new three-year strategic plan, including piloting an out-of-school model, expanding outreach to educators and community partners, and creating a print-rich environment for the kids we serve. We'll also continue working to bring our focus on equity into every facet of our organization and make improvements to further enhance program quality.

Locally, our goal is to provide one-on-one reading sessions and books to keep to 374 students next year. At the cost of \$300 per child, we'll need at least \$112,200 and at least 189 volunteers to make our goal a reality. Thank you for joining us as we embark on the next 25 years of empowering students for reading success!



Student Milestones

Each April, SMART teachers are asked to participate in a voluntary survey reporting progress observed for each participating student in key areas related to success in literacy development. Data reveal:

95% of SMART students consistently showed improvement in measures of literacy development. These measures, which align with classroom standards, include:

- 💡 Understanding that stories have a structure
- 💡 Making predictions
- 💡 Giving appropriate details when retelling
- 💡 Making connections between the story and personal experience

94% of SMART students exhibited more confidence in reading skills.

96% met or exceeded grade-level benchmarks in reading motivation.

**This data is from the 2015-16 program year; outcomes remain relatively constant year-to-year.*



Meet Lincoln

For Lincoln, a first-grade SMART student, choosing a book to take home was a highlight of his day. "He would often get in the car at pick-up and tell me all about it before he was even buckled up," says his mom, Lauren Saruk. "We read as a family before bed every night and most nights one of his choices is his newest book from SMART."

Lincoln's family saw other clear benefits of SMART for their son. "He struggles in large social settings but thrives with one-on-one time," says Saruk. "I'm so grateful for the people that give their time to read to my son like this. It always seems to make him feel so special."

Saruk says not only have Lincoln's reading skills grown, his enthusiasm for books has helped ignite a love of reading in his younger brother, Finley, who now participates in SMART as a kindergartener and loves bringing home books to keep and share with his family.

Parent and Educator Feedback

Each year, SMART gathers input from families with children in the SMART program and from educators with SMART in their schools to learn about our impacts, outcomes and areas for improvement. Here's what we learned:

87% of educators indicated SMART contributed significantly to reading motivation and enjoyment for their students.

94% of parents or guardians agreed that their children benefited significantly from the SMART program.

83% of parents or guardians said their children demonstrate improved reading skills as a result of participating in SMART.



My daughter loved [SMART] and it was all she talked about when coming home from school afterwards.
- Northeast Parent



SMART provides the opportunity for children to love books. From listening to stories to bringing books home, SMART builds a relationship between children and literature.

- SMART Educator

