



City of Tualatin Briefing

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Thanks for your vote of confidence!





About SMART Reading

- Oregon's largest volunteer children's literacy nonprofit
- Vision: An Oregon where all kids can realize their full potential through reading
- Underserved kids; kids living in poverty
- 95% funded with donations; volunteer-driven



Founded in 1991





Why SMART Reading?

Building a strong foundation of literacy can change a child's life trajectory. **Research shows** 2 things are strong predictors of early literacy skills:

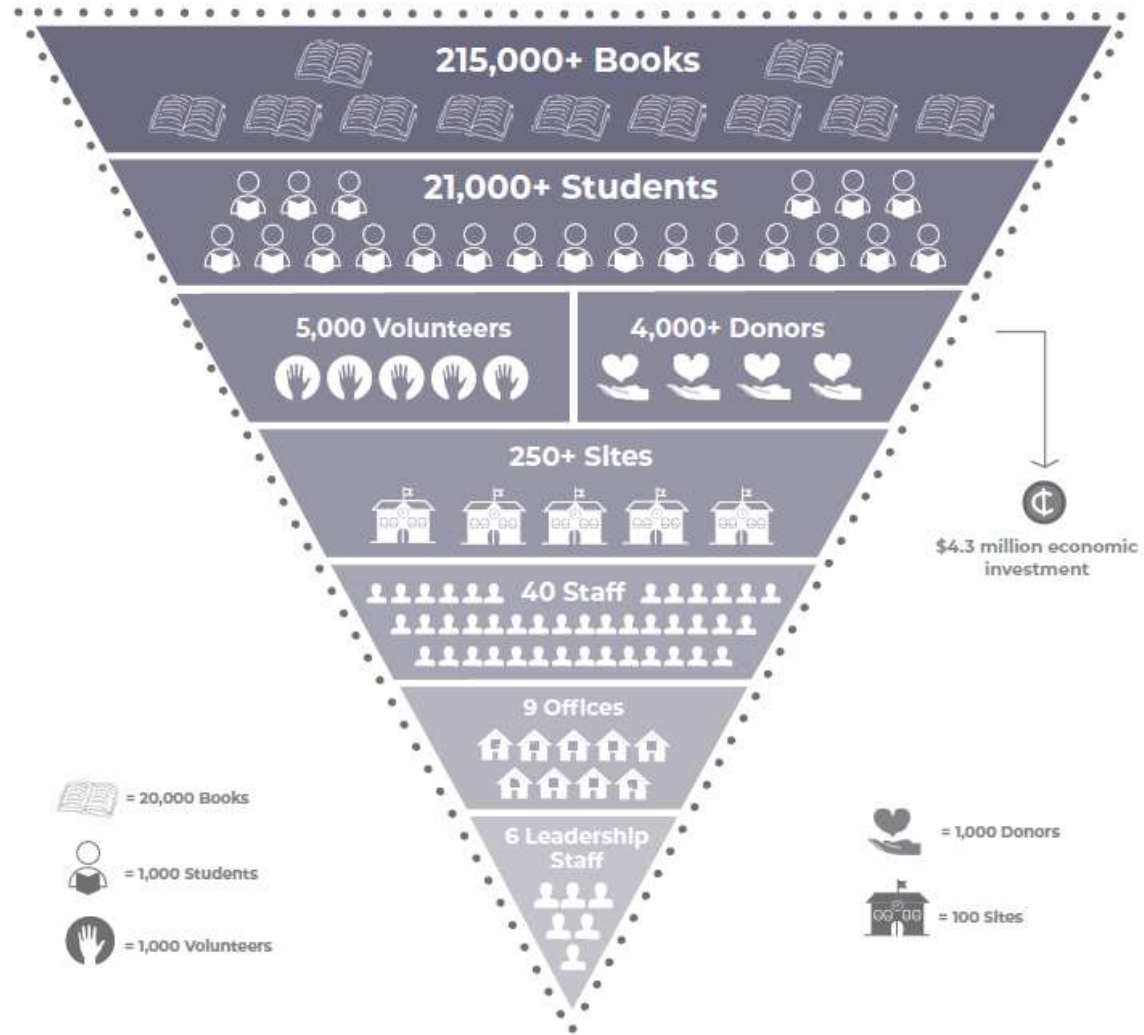
- 1) shared book reading**
- 2) access to books in the home**



64% of SMART kids meet 3rd grade reading benchmark, compared to 39% of all OR kids

Teachers say attendance is better on SMART Reading days

SMART only costs about \$320 per student





SMART Reading's Impact

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.

Tualatin Elementary's SMART Program 2024-25

"The teachers, the office staff, and the principal are extremely warm and welcoming, and we get the sense that SMART is an important and valued part of the week. Our volunteers mention how lovely the school is and how much they like to read at Tualatin."

- Becky Bard, Volunteer Site Coordinator



Tualatin Elementary's SMART Program 2024-25



As of Dec. 31:

- 61 kindergarteners participating in weekly reading with adult volunteer; all three kinder classes participating
- Students have taken home 232 new books; students choose the books they keep

By June, each student will have assembled a personal library of up to 14 books (last year, 71 kids got 862 books)



Joy





Inclusivity





Positive Childhood Experiences

Laugh

Smile

Affirmation

Conversation

Engagement

Opportunity

Relationship





Stay Engaged with SMART Reading

- Spread the word
- Volunteer as a Reader or restore books at the Children's Book Bank
- Make annual donations
- Hire us to provide literacy trainings: trauma-informed care, science-based reading, representation in books

For more info: sbenson@smartreading.org

