



# STRIVE FOR

# 85%

OF TEHAMA COUNTY THIRD GRADERS  
READING CONFIDENTLY AT GRADE LEVEL.

Education and community are coming together to give every child  
a better chance to become a confident reader.

**45%** of Tehama County  
third graders are currently  
reading confidently  
at grade level.

**Our goal is 85%.**  
And together, we can get there.



## A SHARED EFFORT

Schools, families, businesses, churches, service clubs, libraries, healthcare providers and neighbors all have a role to play. When we work together, we give every child a better chance to become strong readers — and a brighter future for our community.



## WHY THIRD GRADE MATTERS

Third grade is a turning point. By this time, children need to read well enough to learn everything else — math, science, history, directions and eventually the skills they'll need for the workplace.



Children who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade are **4X** more likely not to graduate from high school on time.



## READING STARTS LONG BEFORE THIRD GRADE

Babies' and toddlers' brains are rapidly building connections — more than 1 million new neural connections form every second in the first few years of life. Talking, singing, naming what you see, responding back and forth, and reading together from birth help build language and the foundation for future reading.

## HOW WE'LL KNOW WE'RE MOVING



Our 45% starting point is based on Oral Reading Fluency — a measure of how accurately and confidently a child can read aloud. We use this local measure because it gives us a focused look at reading, can be monitored during the school year (not just once a year), and allows us to track progress over time. The countywide approach will clearly show how all students are progressing.

## READING HELPS BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES

**READ  
EARLY**



**Education**  
More likely  
to graduate



**READ  
BY 3RD**



**Economic  
Opportunity**  
Greater access  
to good jobs



**MORE DOORS  
STAY OPEN**



**Health & Well-Being**  
Education and  
reading are associated  
with better health  
and longer, healthier lives.

# WAYS YOU CAN HELP



**READ**  
with a child.



**TALK**  
about the  
importance  
of reading.



**GIVE**  
books or  
support existing  
programs.



**VOLUNTEER**  
your time  
and talents.



**SHARE**  
the message  
and encourage  
others.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Where do you see reading happening in your world?
- What does reading mean to you?
- What's one small thing you could do to support this movement?
- How could your business, church, club or organization get involved?
- Who else should be part of this conversation?
- What would a community of strong readers look like in five years?
- What's already working that we can build on?
- What would make it easier for you to be part of this?



### A FEW KEY FACTS

- Our goal is 85% of Tehama County third graders reading confidently at grade level.
- We are currently at 45%.
- We are using Oral Reading Fluency, a local measure that focuses specifically on reading and can be monitored during the school year.
- Reading by third grade is a key milestone, but building readers starts much earlier.
- Education access and quality, language and reading, graduation, and early childhood development are closely connected to healthier and more prosperous lives.



### FIND YOUR ONE THING.

Small actions, multiplied across our community, create big change.



TEHAMA COUNTY  
**READERS**

**BUILD**  
**COMMUNITIES**



*Stronger  
Readers  
Brighter  
Futures.*