

THIRD GRADE READING

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Thing 1 and Thing 2 Support Literacy

Literacy programs top the list at Tacoma Public Schools. Here are two things the community is doing to help:

Thing 1: Tacoma Public Library Pathway Program

Got a student ID? Then you've got access to the library! Thanks to this comprehensive partnership, students can explore everything from logging on to library computers for printing and internet to checking out books or CDs. They may also access free homework help at the online Homework Center or animated streaming eBooks for elementary students on BookFlix.

Thing 2: Read Across America Day

This annual motivation and awareness program celebrates reading on the March 2 birthday of author Dr. Seuss. Graduate Tacoma and Communities in Schools invite community

members to read to students across the district on this day.

Pictured here, Superintendent Carla Santorno reads Dr. Seuss to TPS children.



DIG DEEPER: Visit GraduateTacoma.org/Data to dig deeper into the data on third grade literacy!

KEY FINDINGS

Poverty Gap Persists, but Most Rates Moving Up

The good news is that literacy rates improved six points overall in the past year, narrowing the gap between Washington state and Tacoma by 40%. Also, even though average baseline literacy rates are relatively low, they are on the rise across all demographic groups in Tacoma. The exception is Native American students, but the one-year decline we see here may be attributable to very low counts (N=22) and a high variation within this specific subgroup.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) was introduced last school year as the new test for literacy and language arts for all Washington State public school third graders. This test replaced the old Measurement of Student Progress (MSP), which assessed reading, writing, speaking/listening, and research competencies.

Last year's initial SBAC measurement showed us we had work to do: Just 42% of Tacoma students were reading on grade level by the end of third grade. That measure reveals more than just reading aptitude: Reading on grade level in third grade is an important marker for students to be on track to graduate high school.

When kids fall behind this early in reading, it becomes more and more challenging for them to stay on track in all subjects as they move into middle and high schools.

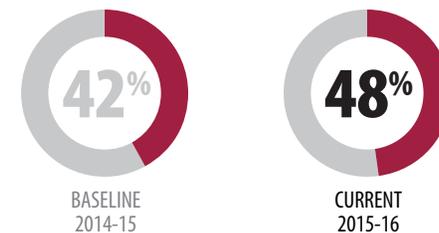
The disparity in achievement as a result of poverty is stark as we look at this indicator. Students in poverty experience a 30% gap as compared to non-poverty students. However, it is heartening to note that rates for both groups are moving in the same direction: up.

The gaps experienced by Black, Hispanic, and Multi-racial students are all in the double digits when compared to White students.

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATA DIVE

↑ THIRD GRADE LITERACY



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the percentage of third graders meeting the Washington state standardized test for third grade reading, now the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

% BY POVERTY, RACE, ETHNICITY, & STATE

PERSISTENT GAPS – THIRD GRADE READING

Gaps as % difference – Students of color: White students. Poverty: Non-poverty.

