

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2019

Colusa County Office of Education receives generous literacy grant from the U.S Department of Education.

Colusa, Calif. - Colusa County Office of Education (CCOE) today announced that they were awarded the "Innovative Approaches to Literacy" Grant of \$2.25 million over three years by the U.S. Department of Education. Through this grant, CCOE's entire literacy outreach to Colusa County students, ages 2 to 7 years old has been boosted to a level far beyond its 5 year plan.

Colusa County Office of Education (CCOE) will partner with its 13 preschools, three K-3 schools, and 6 local libraries to provide early learners with access to cutting-edge print and digital literacy programming, e-books, and interactive activities. This project will provide greater access to educational programs across our rural schools and expand professional development opportunities for our early childhood educators by utilizing technology, specifically Footsteps2Brilliance® and distance learning programs.

Michael P. West, Colusa County Superintendent of Schools stated, "What an opportunity for our Preschool through 2nd grade students to have access to all forms of electronic media as well as books to take home to share and books to own." West continued, "Parents will continually have opportunities to read with their children through the Footsteps2Brilliance® app, and enjoy the tactile experience of holding and reading a book that their child selected."

This Colusa County Footsteps2Brilliance® Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant supports CCOE's "And Literacy for All" Initiative. This initiative was created as a countywide literacy project to promote bilingual reading and writing skills to all Colusa County residents using mobile technology. The primary goal is to have all children reading at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

"Being able to affect the reading and literacy opportunities of all Colusa County Children is a dream come true for the Colusa County Office of Education. This grant was a four-year long team effort by so many CCOE staff and their dedication demonstrates their focus to improve literacy throughout Colusa County," says West. "Our children deserve nothing short of this effort to allow them to succeed during their journey through K-12 education and developing into productive citizens of our society," he added.

Thank you to Senator Jim Nielson, Assemblyman James Gallagher, Colusa County Librarian, Stacey Zwald Costello, Chair of First Five Colusa, Bonnie Davies, Superintendents Dr. Edgar Lampkin of Williams Unified School District, Zach Thurman of Maxwell Unified School District and Dwayne Newman of Colusa Unified School District, as well as Greg Spencer of Footsteps2Brilliance®, for their unwavering support of the CCOE's initiative, "And Literacy for All."

For more information about the "And Literacy for All" Initiative and Colusa County Office of Education, please visit www.ccoe.net or contact Superintendent West at questions@ccoe.net.