READ TO SUCCEED
PROMISING INTERVENTIONS
Santa Barbara Unified School District has identified literacy as one of its top three priorities. Each year students enter Santa Barbara classrooms who are dyslexic or have extremely low reading proficiency.

Until the third grade, students spend much of their time in the classroom learning how to read. After that point, students are expected to be able to rely on their reading skills to continue learning. Since classroom time is not typically dedicated to learning how to read in later grades, students with neurological learning differences like dyslexia continue to be at a disadvantage for all subjects throughout their academic career without intervention.

According to the California Department of Education, 90% of cases of students displaying characteristics of dyslexia can be remediated with early intervention.

The repercussions of not receiving early intervention extend beyond classroom performance. Students who continue to struggle academically due to learning differences like dyslexia are statistically more likely to dislike school, develop low self-esteem, have discipline issues, be ineligible for extra-curricular activities, and may ultimately give up and drop out.

An issue of equity

In Santa Barbara, affluent parents of children with dyslexia quietly purchase expensive educational intervention from private tutors and learning centers. Children from middle and lower class households have little chance of reaching their full potential if they are dyslexic and their parents do not have the resources to pay for intervention. This leaves many families dependent on the resources available at their children's schools.
Signs of promise

The good news is classroom-proven interventions are available to teach students with learning differences how to read. The Santa Barbara Unified School District has begun a pilot program at Harding Elementary to help students with low reading proficiency get back on track. The program uses research-based methods in a small group instructional setting to help students with decoding written word.

![Average test results for first grade students](image)

After just a few short months, the Harding reading intervention pilot program has yielded impressive results. Every student’s knowledge of phonics rules increased and mastery of sight words went from the lowest scoring student identifying zero words, increased to 20 words and the highest scoring student identifying 150 words, increased to 550 words.

Although the fight against dyslexia is a difficult one, as a community we cannot afford to continue to look away from the issue. The small group setting necessary for this early intervention demands a lot of resources from our public schools. However, it costs four times as much to deliver interventions to remediate after the third grade. In the long run, early intervention will benefit our students as well as the SBUSD budget. That’s why SBEF is seeking funding to help SBUSD expand the early intervention reading program to two additional elementary schools for the 2018-19 school year.
Every year, the HOPE Awards gives us an opportunity to honor our local heroes of public education. This year we will shine our light on individuals and programs making strides for literacy.

Our host, Fannie Flagg will help us honor the Santa Barbara Public Library, as well as celebrate the work of the Santa Barbara Education Foundation. The evening will begin with a silent auction and reception featuring fine food and beverages from local restaurants, wineries, and breweries at the beautiful Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

About the Keynote Speaker
Fannie Flagg is an actress, novelist and a writer for television, film, and theater. She is best known for her bestselling novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* and its Academy Award nominated screenplay adaptation. What may not be as well-known is Flagg’s personal struggle with dyslexia.

For tickets and information, visit [www.sbefoundation.org](http://www.sbefoundation.org).
SBEF was recently awarded a grant in the amount of $371,000 from the Stepanek Foundation for five of SBEF's programs. This generous gift will reach students across SBUSD with funds supporting comprehensive intervention for students who self-identify as high school dropouts through The Academy for Success and provide mentorship and resources to low-income first-generation college students through PEAC (Program for Effective Access to College). The grant's impact will also be seen on campuses, as it will help stock classroom libraries and help complete the Outdoor Classroom project at Cleveland Elementary. The grant's support will extend beyond the school year and will fund scholarships for the Get Ahead Program Summer School.

(Left) SBEF’s Margie Yahyavi presents a check for $9,500 for classroom library books to Adams Elementary Principal Kelly Fresch. (Right) Funds will also support PEAC, which provides mentorship and resources to low-income first-generation college-bound students.
On Board with SBEF

We would like to welcome the newest members of the Santa Barbara Education Foundation Board of Directors.

Bill Woodard

Although he is only in his first year as Principal of Dos Pueblos High School. He previously spent eight years as an English teacher at DPHS and in 2011, he joined the administration team as Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction. Woodard received his undergraduate degree in English from UCLA before receiving his teaching credential from Azusa Pacific University.

Kareem Battle

Currently a teacher at Santa Barbara Junior High School. Battle obtained both his B.A. in History and his M.A. in Education from the UC Santa Barbara. He is currently the assistant basketball coach for the freshman team at SBHS and is also heavily involved in education as an AVID coordinator and a member of the subsidy committee of the Marjorie Luke Board at SBJHS.

Ismael Ulloa

Ulloa currently serves on the SBUSD Board of Education, works in the Santa Barbara City College Express to Success Program, He previously worked as a Cal-SOAP director and with district students as a literacy coach. He is a Santa Barbara local who attended district schools from preschool through Santa Barbara High School.
Get Ahead Program
Summer School 2018

5 Credit Course
3 week session: $295.00
Session 1: June 18 - July 6
Session 2: July 9 - 26
Monday- Thursday
8am-1:20pm

10 Credit Course
6 week session: $545.00
June 18 - July 26
Monday- Thursday
8am-1:20pm

Limited scholarships available.

Nick Rail Summer Band Camp

PROVIDING AN ENRICHING AND AFFORDABLE SUMMER MUSIC EXPERIENCE FOR KIDS SINCE 1989.

June 18th- July 12th
(Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday)

Registration: $125 per student
Early Bird Registration: $95 per student until April 30th

Scholarships are available.
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GREAT PROGRAM!

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