

GIRLStart Literacy Program:

Inspiring every girl to learn to read and reach her full potential!

GIRLStart Literacy (grades K-3) is an afterschool literacy program that helps girls develop reading and writing skills, and includes components addressing health, fitness, social and behavioral skills to give girls a strong literacy foundation for their school years and beyond. The curriculum provides opportunities for girls to regularly exercise their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, empowering them to take ownership of their learning.



Why girls need GIRLStart:

Children who do not read at grade level by 3rd grade struggle to catch up in school and are at a significantly greater risk of dropping out before graduation. Over half of GIRLStart participants are English Language Learners or live with parents whose highest level of education is a high school diploma or lower, which may hinder the development of a students' literacy

skills. GIRLStart participants attend schools that are in the lowest 40% performance ranking in the state (2009 California Standards Test). GIRLStart participants benefit from supplemental educational programming that will motivate them toward higher academic achievement, provide them with additional literacy training and encourage them to build strong peer and adult relationships.

Success!:

Evaluation results from the 2009-2010 program year:

- ⇒ **K, 1st, and 2nd grade girls showed significant improvement in reading, language and comprehension.**
- ⇒ **On standardized tests, a higher percentage of GIRLStart girls in Grade 1 (52%) scored at the early advanced or advanced level compared to the schools' average (37%).**
- ⇒ **On standardized tests, 50% of 2nd graders in GIRLStart performed at or above proficiency levels as compared to 43% of students in 2nd grade.**



Program Highlights:

Literacy Skill Building: For an hour every day, girls' activities are structured around the abilities necessary to become a successful independent reader. The curriculum emphasizes the mastery of skills including rhyming, letter-sound connection, phonemic awareness, writing development and vocabulary.

Homework Assistance: Girls spend 30 minutes each day focusing on homework, with the support of staff and volunteers.

Family Strengthening: Supports GIRLStart participants by establishing relationships between staff members and families during daily pick-up time, phone check-ins, and family-oriented events.



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strong, smart, and boldSM

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Locations offered:

Wilson Elementary School, Think College Now, International Community School, Community United Elementary School, Parker Elementary School & Millsmont Elementary School.