

# ORANGE COUNTY GIRLS NEED OUR HELP

The COVID-19 pandemic will have lasting effects on the girls of Orange County. With schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and returning in the Fall on a split shift schedule, girls are at risk of **falling behind and dropping out**. If not mitigated, the educational and economic disruption caused by this pandemic will lead to **lasting academic and life setbacks** for current students.



School Closures = Increase in Truancy. Truancy rates are higher in high poverty communities. 1 in 3 students in those communities are not participating in remote learning.

**21%** of students are not participating in school during COVID-19 closures.



**1 in 10**

Orange County students were chronically absent **BEFORE** COVID-19 and school closures. Chronic absenteeism is associated with **lower academic performance** and an increased **risk of dropping out of school**

An affiliate of the research nonprofit NWEA predicts a substantial impact of learning loss from COVID-19 closures. They predict students, on average, will have a

**loss of 30 percent of the typical yearly gains in reading.**

Students in high poverty areas will be even further behind.



Reading proficiency is critical before students enter the fourth grade. The National Assessment of Adult Literacy reported that

**2 / 3** of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

**GIRLS INC. OF ORANGE COUNTY  
LITERACY LAB IS THE SOLUTION**

**girls  
inc.**

of Orange County

# GIRLS INC. OF ORANGE COUNTY LITERACY LAB

# girls inc.

## of Orange County

The Literacy Lab program was researched and developed originally through our National Resource Center and a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Girls Inc. of Orange County was one of three national pilot sites for the program. At each new site Girls Inc. has been able to bring strong community support including school districts, individual administrators and teachers, and community supporters. All Literacy Lab books feature a female protagonist. **Results show...**

Girls Inc. Literacy Lab participants reach **grade level reading** by fourth grade in a **safe, supportive, pro-girl environment**. Girls Inc. of Orange County tracks reading levels using a nationally recognized measurement tool: Acadience (formerly known as DIBELS, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills).

**90%**

Girls Inc. of Orange County girls improved their **Directed Oral Reading Fluency** after participating in Literacy Lab.

**85%**

Girls Inc. of Orange County kindergartners improved their **First Sound Fluency** after participating in Literacy Lab.

**82%**

Girls Inc. of Orange County girls improved their **Nonsense Word Fluency** after participating in Literacy Lab.



**2013**

Literacy Lab programming launches in NMUSD



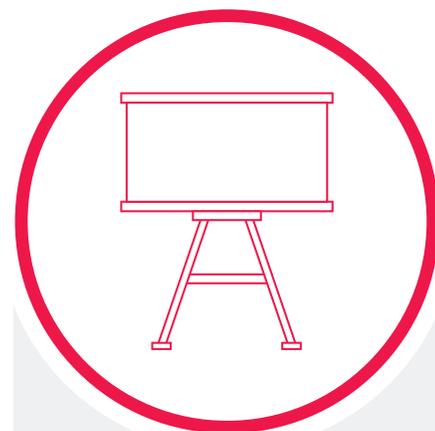
**153**

girls currently participating in Literacy Lab



**4**

schools currently served with the Literacy Lab program



By offering Literacy Lab for 30 weeks, twice a week during the school year, participants receive over

**60 hours**

of literacy activities that align with CA Common Core Standards for English Language and one-on-one reading time in a school year.

Family engagement within the Literacy Lab program increases girls' opportunities to practice and retain literacy skills outside of school and Literacy Lab.

**92%**

**of Girls Inc. of Orange County parents/caregivers increased their knowledge of activities that help build and reinforce literacy skills in 2018-2019.**



**“ Girls Inc. makes me strong and independent and I'm getting better at reading. ”**

Girls Inc. of Orange County 2nd Grade Literacy Lab Participant