

priorities for 2021/2022

Early Literacy

The Every Child Initiative focuses on young children facing risk factors for low literacy. Five different programs for children, their parents and caregivers offer engaging educational activities, books in more than 20 languages and cultures and workshops that teach parents about early brain development and reading practices. Partnerships with hospitals, clinics, Head Starts, WIC (Women, Infants & Children), teen parent programs and immigrant and refugee centers connect children, parents and grandparents with all the library has to offer.

Reach: 37,000 children and adults



School-Age Success

Library Connect brings the in-depth resources and services of the library to every student in our five largest school districts. Given the pandemic, school districts are moving quickly to implement this large-scale, technologically complex initiative, giving tens of thousands of students without a library card full access to library books, materials, tutoring, research support, and programs. The library is embedding librarians in schools, virtually and in person, to support teachers and students in fully using these library services to support academic success. In addition, The Library Foundation is providing thousands of books to support the rollout.

Reach: 80,000 students and 5,000 educators



Summer Reading engages children and teens in reading when kids are at greatest risk of reading skill loss. Multnomah County Library has one of the most comprehensive summer reading programs in the nation. Library staff and volunteers are inventive in reaching children and parents who do not visit the library regularly.

Reach: 80,000 babies, children and teens

STEAM Home Learning Kits. After a very successful pilot last year, the library will offer 32,300 STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) kits this year on more than 20 different topics. Promising results from the pilot last year show that the kits reach and engage students who are traditionally marginalized in STEAM education and careers. The kits and instructional videos are available in 6 languages at all 19 libraries and through community-based partners.

Reach: 100,000 kids and teens



Diverse Books will engage children of all ages in reading books that reflect their language, culture and family structure. This year, librarians will expand the library's multicultural and linguistically diverse children's books to reach and engage families across our community.

Reach: 25,000 books will reach more than 75,000 youth

Learning for Life

Everybody Reads will engage our community in reading and discussing one inspiring, thought-provoking book. The Library Foundation makes it possible for teens in under-resourced high schools to receive and discuss the chosen book, and participate in discussions with the author.

Reach: 15,000 students and educators

Family Programs, virtual and in-person, engage children and adults in a wide array of educational, instructional and cultural programs offered across our community.

Reach: thousands of children, teens and adults

