

# Lift with us<sup>↑</sup>

THE BIG  
LIFT



SUPPORTED BY MEASURE K  
LOCAL FUNDS  
LOCAL NEEDS  
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SAN MATEO  
COUNTY  
OFFICE OF  
EDUCATION



SILICON VALLEY  
community foundation®

The Big Lift is a San Mateo County initiative focused on improving third-grade reading proficiency. Three backbone agencies manage the Big Lift: San Mateo County, the San Mateo County Office of Education and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.



[www.thebiglift.org](http://www.thebiglift.org)

## Impact Summary 2017-2018

Venture. Transform. Succeed.

# Big Lift by the Numbers

2,000 children served in preschool

1,200 kids served in summer

2,000 families received book bags and attended workshops through Raising A Reader

7,000 families from PreK - 2nd grade received attendance mailings

**5,000**  
TOTAL UNDUPLICATED  
CHILDREN SERVED  
ACROSS 7 COMMUNITIES

## Results

- The RAND Corporation found that children who attend a Big Lift Preschool are 27% more likely to be ready for Kindergarten than children who don't attend preschool.
- Big Lift children who are ready for Kindergarten are maintaining that advantage through the beginning of 1st grade.
- Children gain on average 1.5 months of reading skills during the summer and do not slide back the typical 2 months during the summer, for a net gain of 3.5 months.
- Postcards with positive messages about attendance increased school instruction by 7,300 days across seven school districts.
- Children who attend a Big Lift preschool are read to more often and have more books in the home than children who did not attend preschool.

## Impact

This is Brianna. Brianna is from Daly City and attended The Big Lift Inspiring Summers program for the first time in 2018. When Brianna entered the program, she was shy and had trouble communicating with the other children and her teachers. Her parents were concerned about her entering school.



Through the tireless work of her summer teachers and the rest of the staff, Brianna was an entirely different child by the end of the four-week program. Not only did her literacy skills increase by 3+ months, but her social-emotional skills went through the roof. By the end of the program, she made friends, understood the routine of the school day and was comfortable in the classroom. Brianna excelled on all fronts and received the Kindergarten Courage Award from Supervisor David Canepa; one of four awards presented to the entire student body in Jefferson Elementary School District.

Because of The Big Lift and the many people who work tirelessly on behalf of San Mateo County children, thousands of children are entering school ready to learn and are staying on track to read proficiently at third grade. We're so proud to support thousands of children, just like Brianna, and know that The Big Lift is having a significant impact in seven communities across San Mateo County!