



## COLUSA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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### *Press Release*

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### **CCOE Partners with Colusa County Migrant Farm Housing**

On June 7 of this year, the Colusa County Office of Education (CCOE) and the County of Colusa began a collaboration to bring early literacy materials and instruction to families living in the Colusa County Migrant Farm Housing community, located in Williams.

CCOE's "And Literacy For All" team, comprised of Literacy Coordinator Stefani Santana and Literacy Specialist Yesenia Chavez, have worked closely with Migrant Farm Housing (MFH) Operations Supervisor, Martha Torres, and consultant Carmen Altamirano to assess the literacy and English language development needs of the families living in the MFH.

To meet those needs, Torres and Altamirano implement free English language and literacy development classes each Wednesday evening for families at the MFH, with supplemental materials and activities provided by Santana and Chavez.

For the last 15 weeks, 31 out of 200 families living at the MFH have attended these weekly classes, with each student displaying notable improvements in the areas of Language (6% increase), Phonological Awareness (12% increase), and Logic & Reasoning (6% increase).

"When you collaborate with others with the same goal in mind, the possibilities become endless," said Torres.

As part of the program, families are equipped with iPads on loan from CCOE to practice literacy skills both in- and outside of the classroom, through CCOE's Footsteps2Brilliance early learning platform. Using the platform, students can read, create books, and play literacy games in both English and Spanish, to further their biliteracy.

"This program offers not only a chance for participants to gain foundational language and comprehension skills, but it also fosters an environment of bonding between children and their parents and grandparents," stated Santana.

Which student is the current leader of the class you might ask? 67-year-old Herminia Garcia, who has, so far, read 44,353 words and completed 226 activities.

These early literacy and language development classes will end on October 25, but this collaboration between the two organizations will be an annual expanded learning opportunity for the families at Colusa County's Migrant Farm Housing. To learn more about the Colusa County Office of Education "And Literacy For All" initiative, visit [www.andliteracyforall.net](http://www.andliteracyforall.net).