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SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS
Educational Services Division
Basic Education/Language Arts

"Reading always has been--and remains--a means of assimilating information, acquiring knowledge, gaining insight, and receiving inspiration from individuals who are not available for face-to-face conversations and interactions."

Reading Framework for California Public Schools, K-12, 1980.

In order to motivate students to expand their reading, both at school and at home, opportunities must be provided for students to do quantity reading. Students given the opportunity to practice, master, and extend their reading skills will discover that reading can serve as a means of relaxation, a source of pleasure, and as a process to pursue additional educational and personal interests.

Quantitative reading focuses on the amount of reading done and types of books read. In order to increase student quantity reading, the school must provide adequate time and reading resources. Most importantly, teachers must encourage and motivate students to read and respond to a wide variety of written materials. Listed below are some sample activities designed to motivate secondary students to read taken from the California State Department of Education publication, Handbook for Planning an Effective Reading Program, 1979.

1. Establish daily sessions of sustained silent reading.

2. Make sure that libraries and classrooms contain a variety of high quality and current reading materials.

3. Develop activities that encourage students to share their interests, recommend books to one another, and learn from one another.

4. Make sure that parents, teachers, and other role models show enthusiasm for reading and that they read to students as well as encourage students to read independently.

5. Hold book fairs, young authors' conferences, and other school or regional gatherings related to reading.

6. Develop school assignments that include reading and discussions of reading with family members at home.

7. Integrate the library program with classroom instruction.

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