



## State Library Program Helps Close Opportunity Gaps for California Students

Students and educators accessed K-12 Online Content school library resources from home 93 million times during pandemic

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**Sacramento, CA** - Students and educators statewide accessed educational school library content millions of times during the pandemic because of a program provided by the California State Library, a [recent analysis shows](#).

California invests in the K-12 Online Resources Project that provides research and homework resources for the state's 6.2 million public school students. Educational resources are provided to every public school district, charter school and local library in California through the program.

Every California public school student, educator, and family has unlimited access to millions of curated research and literary resources from Britannica, ProQuest, and TeachingBooks as well as technical support and training in maximizing use. Making these resources available statewide can help shrink opportunity gaps for our most vulnerable families and communities.

Usage data indicates widespread use by students and educators. Since the project began in July 2018, there have been more than 231 million investigations and searches -- more than 93 million of them since schools and libraries were temporarily shuttered in March 2020 because of the pandemic.

By laptop, tablet or phone – at school, at the library or at home – students are able to research, analyze and use information and media in a way that is self-directed and student-focused, developing both digital literacy and critical thinking skills. Teachers are better able to build content geared to the interests and needs of their students. Family members can participate in and support the learning process, too.

More detail available in the full report,\* [“Closing Opportunity Gaps for California Students: Online Educational Resources Program Report to the Legislature 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.”](#)



*\*This report has been updated to reflect the entire 2020-21 fiscal year after an [earlier announcement](#) with data from July 2020 to March 31, 2021, was made available in June 2021.*

The California State Library coordinates the program in partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education. The project is an example of California’s ongoing commitment to making educational opportunities available to all students, families, and residents. Current annual investment in the program is \$5.5 million, with [a goal to provide additional resources for science, technology, engineering, arts and math subjects \(STEAM\)](#) this fall.

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**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners’ diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California.