

## Palmdale School District launches Footsteps2Brilliance

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Palmdale School District Superintendent Raul Maldonado speaks at a press conference Oct. 14 to announce the Footsteps2Brilliance program. [contributed]

PALMDALE– The Palmdale School District (PSD) recently unveiled a free citywide early learning literacy program aimed at creating stronger opportunities for the children of Palmdale.

“We believe that the focus on early learning will help eliminate the achievement gap and to get our students more college and career ready,” stated Palmdale School District Superintendent Raul Maldonado. “This program is just the beginning of our efforts as part of the Palmdale Promise.”

**Footsteps2Brilliance** is an early learning literacy program that will provide pre-K through third grade students access to eBooks, interactive games, vocabulary brain mapping tools and more. The program is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer in English and Spanish. The program also aims to reduce the vocabulary and oral language gap in at-risk children while accelerating literacy skills for more advanced students.

Residents who live in the following ZIP codes will have lifetime access to this enriched program: 93550, 93551 and 93552.

Local community organizations and city representatives will collaborate with PSD to spread awareness of this free program. Among those organizations are the City of Palmdale, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department’s Palmdale Station, Palmdale City Library, Palmdale Water District, African-American Chamber of Commerce, Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Antelope Valley and the Palmdale Chamber of Commerce.

The collaborative effort will help children in Palmdale enhance their literacy levels, while adults may choose to improve their English or Spanish skills through the 21st century technology.

“Providing our entire community this cutting-edge source of education is a top priority,” stated Maldonado. “Now our community can take advantage of this free program and prepare our future leaders before they take their first step into the classroom.”

Additionally, *Footsteps2Brilliance* supports the new White House Initiative on Educational Excellence. Palmdale will be among the first cities in the nation to be recognized as part of the White House initiative aimed at lowering the achievement gap for students. The district has already received an invitation to discuss their student growth at the White House with other educational leaders in 2016.

Residents that live in the corresponding ZIP codes 93550, 93551 and 93552 may visit [www.myf2b.com/register/palmdale](http://www.myf2b.com/register/palmdale) to register for the free Footsteps2Brilliance program.

*[Information via news release from the Palmdale School District.]*

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