

## The Dictionary Project: Distribution by State

State	Books Donated 07-08	Third Graders 08-09	% covered	State	Books Donated 07-08	Third Graders 08-09	% covered
AK	5,568	10,981	50.7%	NC	78,777	127,447	61.8%
AL	46,562	64,996	71.6%	ND	1,752	7,206	24.3%
AR	24,432	40,227	60.7%	NE	15,168	24,586	61.7%
AZ	92,268	94,093	98.1%	NH	9,994	15,880	62.9%
CA	235,174	520,563	45.2%	NJ	119,752	110,614	108.3%
CO	34,639	68,284	50.7%	NM	13,647	28,003	48.7%
CT	36,381	46,799	77.7%	NV	19,344	37,502	51.6%
DC	3,600	4,912	73.3%	NY	100,675	219,654	45.8%
DE	8,964	10,411	86.1%	OH	73,040	149,980	48.7%
FL	164,988	224,133	73.6%	OK	32,009	53,208	60.2%
GA	80,084	142,461	56.2%	OR	39,705	46,990	84.5%
HI	19,632	14,559	134.8%	PA	71,432	154,391	46.3%
IA	41,707	38,554	108.2%	PR	31,020	48,338	64.2%
ID	21,577	21,933	98.4%	RI	10,109	11,155	90.6%
IL	58,362	176,122	33.1%	SC	65,267	60,444	108.0%
IN	29,440	88,712	33.2%	SD	8,392	10,387	80.8%
KS	17,574	36,729	47.8%	TN	29,474	89,566	32.9%
KY	13,638	57,638	23.7%	TX	85,328	403,482	21.1%
LA	48,287	59,927	80.6%	UT	49,373	49,399	99.9%
MA	74,452	77,864	95.6%	VA	33,912	101,362	33.5%
MD	68,706	70,160	97.9%	VI	1,608	1,236	130.1%
ME	7,959	14,469	55.0%	VT	10,392	6,852	151.7%
MI	75,532	143,782	52.5%	WA	45,288	84,558	53.6%
MN	41,440	67,466	61.4%	WI	27,091	71,571	37.9%
MO	46,100	75,015	61.5%	WV	16,810	22,866	73.5%
MS	19,268	44,406	43.4%	WY	6,984	7,064	98.9%
MT	15,722	11,661	134.8%				
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,328,399</b>	<b>4,170,598</b>	<b>55.8%</b>

# 4,170,598

A big number—what does it mean? This is the approximate number of third-grade students in the United States of America. And this is our goal for the 2008-2009 school year: That each one of these children will receive a dictionary from a local sponsor.

It is an audacious goal. In the 2007-2008 school year, just over 2.3 million dictionaries were distributed. Reaching our goal will require the work of all of our dedicated sponsors and volunteers. Here are some things that you can do to help us make it:

- Consider expanding your organization's project to include an additional school or an additional school district. If there is a neighboring town where no one has started a project, include those children in your distributions.
- Encourage friends, family and colleagues to start or contribute to projects where they live.
- Write letters to the editors of newspapers in towns and cities where no project has yet been started. The Dictionary Project was founded as a response to a letter to the editor that Mary French read in 1995.

If you have participated in giving out dictionaries to children, you are the best ambassador this program has. The word we most often hear from our sponsors describing their participation is "rewarding." Most people are surprised and gratified that the time they took to visit the schools to present the dictionaries to the children was worth every minute, and they can't wait to return next year or to include another school in their project. One man called to tell us how happy he felt after visiting a school. He had been appointed the Dictionary Project chairman for his club, and he thought that the children would respond to the dictionaries with the same excitement that they would have if they received a new pair of socks: They know they need socks and they appreciate the thought, but they don't get excited. He was shocked that the children applauded him for bringing the dictionaries. He couldn't leave the room because each student wanted to show him a new word in the dictionary. They even asked him to autograph their books!

Who do you know who would enjoy seeing children excited about learning? Who have you heard lament the state of education today and wish there were something they could do about it? Please tell them about the project. When you do, by all means use our "official" reasons for giving out dictionaries (see the "Why We Do What We Do" section of this newsletter for ideas). But more importantly, tell your own story. Every project is unique, and you can talk most passionately about your own experience. Share the funny and touching thank-you letters you have received. Recall how many children have told you, "This is the first book I have ever owned." Show photos of beaming children voraciously exploring their new dictionaries.

We have faith that there are enough adults in this country who are committed to helping children become strong readers that we can reach every third grader this year and every year. Please join us in believing and in making that belief a reality.

We also need "super-sponsors" to coordinate and oversee the project in each state. If you are willing to devote more time and energy to the cause of literacy than your individual project requires, please consider joining friends like Larry Hutchinson of Iowa, Wally Brown of Utah, Bob Pityo of New Jersey, Gloria King of Hawaii, George and Mary McIlvaine of Wyoming, and David Boynton of New Hampshire as a state coordinator for the project.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOAH!!

On October 16, 2008, we will celebrate Noah Webster's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Webster's *Compendious Dictionary of the English Language* was the first dictionary that used distinctly American spellings, pronunciations, and definitions. He helped to reform elementary education in America and was a major proponent of copyright laws. We can think of no better way to honor his memory than by making sure that every American third grader receives his or her own dictionary. It's Noah's birthday, but the children of America get the presents! (By the way, this is also the perfect time to look up the word "semiquincentennial.")

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**THE  
DICTIONARY  
PROJECT**  
P.O. Box 1845 • Charleston, SC 29402  
www.dictionaryproject.org

## Why we do what we do

Dictionaries have united people through the power of words since they were created over two thousand years ago. The dictionary helps people express their innate gifts. Without words, we cannot share our ideas with others. The Dictionary Project puts words into the hands of children so that they can learn to express their thoughts and appreciation for each other and the world in which we live. Words help us make this world a better place for everyone to live in together. If you express appreciation and gratitude, people will have a high opinion of you because you are showing them the respect they deserve. "Please" and "thank you" are still the magic words.

Computer spell-check may be handy, but it does not replace the dictionary. Spell-check cannot increase the user's understanding of words; it does not help someone become a better reader or more creative writer. Dictionaries make students self-reliant. They are an essential tool for a quality education. A child cannot do his or her best work without a dictionary.

We have high expectations for children. We believe that the greatest possible contribution which any one of us can make to the world is to be ourselves—at our best. The purpose of education is to help students develop their best selves. Unfortunately, it has become a challenge for educators to ensure that students have the tools they need to function effectively in the classroom. Most teachers spend their own money to provide classroom supplies and reference books. The donations of Dictionary Project sponsors benefit children and teachers, but they also empower the sponsors themselves. They demonstrate that caring people have the power to effect change and improve education so that children can grow up to be productive members of society and compete in the global economy.

To date, more than 7.5 million students have received dictionaries. We believe that all children deserve this gift so that they can discover the awesome power of words for themselves.

### WORDS BY THE NUMBERS

**7,582,033** - Dictionaries distributed since 1995  
**4,093** - Individuals and/or groups made donations in 2007  
**\$3,597,140** - Total donations for 2007  
**2,331,915** - Dictionaries donated in 2007

A dictionary is a  
**necessity**



# THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

SUMMER 2008

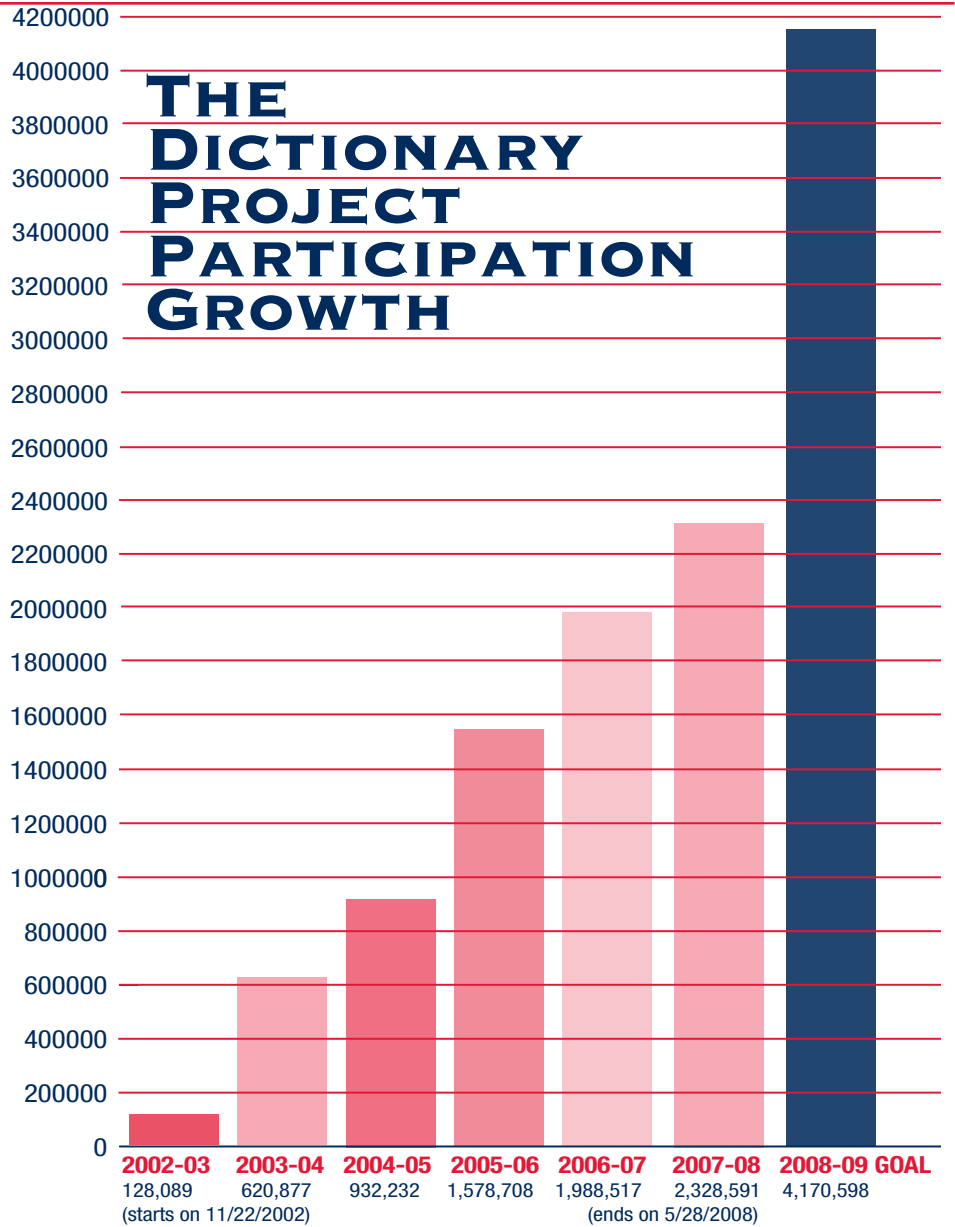
## BEYOND THIRD GRADE

Our primary focus this year, as it has always been, is on providing dictionaries to third-grade students in the United States. However, we recognize that other groups of people need dictionaries too. We want to highlight the following sponsors for the good work they are doing "beyond third grade." More information about their projects is available on our website.

- The Literacy Connection, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Massachusetts, gives dictionaries to its students, who are immigrants studying English and American citizenship. Other adult literacy programs also participate in the project.
- The Murrells Inlet Elks Lodge gives dictionaries to all high school freshmen in Georgetown County, South Carolina. They hope to encourage the students to stay in school and graduate.
- The Rotary Club of Blairstown, New Jersey sends dictionaries to students in Rwanda. Be sure to see the wonderful video of the books being delivered on the International Projects page of our website, and while there, check out the rest of our international projects.
- Larry O'Laughlin, a member of the North Las Vegas Elks Lodge in Nevada, always packs dictionaries on his cross-country RV travels. He and his wife give the books to anyone they meet who needs one—from young children to senior citizens.

## READY *to* WEAR

Have you ever seen a child or teen sporting a t-shirt with an offensive message and wished you could give him or her something more positive to wear? How about a cute design reminding wearers that "When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking," a whimsical "Homonym Bird" building its nest out of words that sound alike but are spelled differently, or a proclamation that "A Dictionary Is a Necessity?" Dictionary Project t-shirts are now available. The shirts make excellent prizes for winners of spelling bees and essay contests and thoughtful gifts for anyone who believes learning is cool. Proceeds from t-shirt sales will be put toward our goal of providing dictionaries to children who would not otherwise receive them.



## PLEDGE FORM

### Correspondence address:

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Shipping Address:

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alternate phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools or programs where the dictionaries will be donated to the students (you may enclose additional pages if necessary):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us a little bit about your organization, your project, or how we can help you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check for your donation and mail to:  
 The Dictionary Project  
 P.O. Box 1845  
 Charleston, SC 29402

If you wish to make your donation by credit card, please call us at 843-856-2706 or complete this sponsorship form on our website, [www.dictionaryproject.org](http://www.dictionaryproject.org).

Dictionary Title	Number of books per box	Number of boxes needed	Requested donation per box	Total Pledge
The Best Dictionary for Students	24		\$30.00	
A Student's Dictionary	24		\$40.80	
Merriam Webster's Dictionary for Students, Encyclopedic Ed.	24		\$48.00	
Merriam Webster's Dictionary for Students	24		\$42.00	
Classic Reference Library Dictionary, Encyclopedic Edition	24		\$48.00	
Webster's Thesaurus for Students	24		\$42.00	
Merriam Webster's Spanish/English Dictionary	24		\$48.00	
Webster's Worldwide Spanish/English Dictionary	60		\$75.00	
Webster's International Atlas	24		\$78.00	
How to Use a Dictionary--How to Use a Thesaurus	30		\$118.50	
Vocabulary Builder	24		\$48.00	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	

Above amounts include shipping. There is no sales tax.

The organization's official name is The Dictionary Project, and we are a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Our Federal Tax I.D. is #57-1029802. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

## Take a Look!

If you would like to see a sample selection of the books offered by The Dictionary Project just make a donation of \$15 and take your choice of either of the selections below (a \$30 donation will get you both!).

### SELECTION A

- The Best Dictionary for Students
- A Student's Dictionary
- Merriam Webster's Dictionary for Students, Encyclopedic Ed.
- Merriam Webster's Dictionary for Students
- Classic Reference Library Dictionary, Encyclopedic Edition

### SELECTION B

- Webster's Thesaurus for Students
- Merriam Webster's Spanish/English Dictionary
- Webster's Worldwide Spanish/English Dictionary
- Webster's International Atlas
- How to Use a Dictionary--How to Use a Thesaurus
- Vocabulary Builder

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

