

# ADULT LITERACY IS...

**THE ABILITY TO USE PRINTED AND WRITTEN INFORMATION TO FUNCTION IN SOCIETY, TO ACHIEVE ONE'S GOALS, AND TO DEVELOP ONE'S KNOWLEDGE AND POTENTIAL!<sup>1</sup>**

FOR SOMEONE TO BE LITERATE, A PERSON MUST BE PROFICIENT. LITERACY PROFICIENCY IS DEFINED AS READING, WRITING, AND COMPREHENDING AT OR ABOVE THE 6TH GRADE LEVEL.<sup>2</sup>

**DID YOU KNOW?  
AT LEAST 341,293 DELAWAREANS ARE NOT PROFICIENT READERS (56%)**

## What Does Literacy Proficiency Look Like?



- Being able to:
  - read at a sixth-grade level (i.e.: Harry Potter)
  - read The News Journal/DE State News.
  - complete a GED test/graduate high school.
  - fill out a job application.
  - understand healthcare information.

## Why is Literacy Proficiency so Important?

Because it increases:



- Job opportunities and workforce development.
- Civic engagement and voting.
- Access to accurate and understandable health information.
- Children's success in education.
- Earning potential and financial stability.
- Equity in opportunities and income.
- Successful re-entry for our most vulnerable populations.

## ADULT LITERACY FACTS



Low literacy costs the U.S. \$225 billion or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.



43% of adults with the lowest literacy levels live in poverty.



75% of state incarcerated individuals did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.



Workers without a high school diploma earn a median weekly wage of \$592, which is three times lower than the highest education level.

**Do you want to be part of the solution? Join the Delaware Literacy Alliance and help us promote equity through literacy!  
Click [here](#) to sign up.**