

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!

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. ²

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

\$225

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.

75%

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

43%

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

3X

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.

1. Source: [National Center for Education Statistics/NAAL](#)

2. Source: [Barbara Bush Foundation](#)