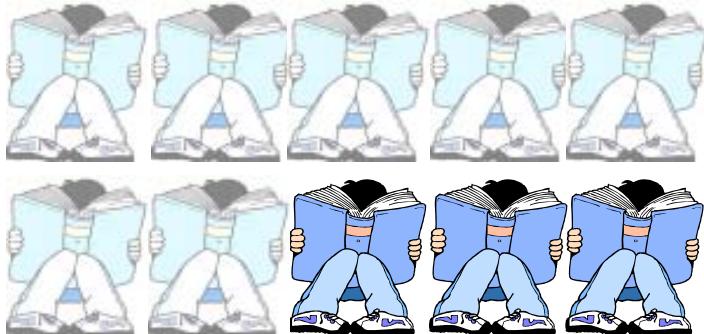


Michigan Summary:

Reading by the End of the Third Grade Matters

Kids Count Special Report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Only three of every 10 fourth graders in Michigan can read proficiently.

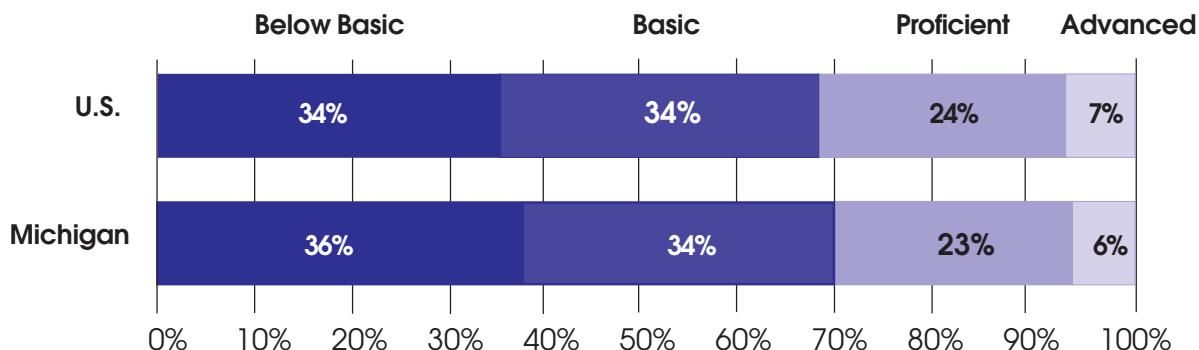


75 percent of students who are poor readers in third grade will remain poor readers in high school.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, America Reads Challenge. (July 1999). *Start Early, Finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader*.

Michigan ranks 34th among the 50 states (#1 is best) for the percent of fourth graders who read at proficient level or above

2009 NAEP* Fourth Grade Reading Scores



*The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.

Source: NAEP Overview <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/>

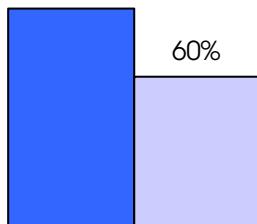


“The world economy demands a more educated workforce, and grade-level reading proficiency is key... the United States will need 60 percent of its population to possess a post-secondary degree or credential by 2025 to remain globally competitive.”

Source: Casey Foundation *Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of the Third Grade Matters, 2010*

More Low-Income Students in Michigan Score Below Proficient Levels

85%



■ Low-Income*

□ Higher Income

*Students eligible for free/reduced priced lunch

Source: NAEP 2009

“The fact is that the low-income fourth graders who cannot meet NAEP’s proficient level in reading today are all too likely to become our nation’s lowest-income, least skilled, least-productive, and most costly citizens tomorrow.”

Source: Casey Foundation *Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of the Third Grade Matters*, 2010

Below Proficient

State Budget Cuts Threaten Early Literacy

Governor Granholm and the Michigan Legislature have cut funding for public schools, including funding for teachers, classroom supplies, and curriculum. Other funding cuts include:

- **Prevention programs**—0-3 secondary prevention programs, which provide community grants for parenting programs and other maltreatment prevention programs, have been cut from \$6.6 million to \$4 million, a 40 percent reduction. In addition, the Department of Human Services has diverted the remaining money from prevention programs to child protective services.
- **Preschool**—An estimated 4,400 4-year-olds lost the opportunity to attend a half-day preschool program. This was the result of a \$7.5 million cut in the Great Start Readiness Program (cut from \$103 million to \$95.5 million) plus the diversion of \$8.3 million preschool

money in about 100 districts for other uses.

- **K-12—School** districts saw their per-pupil funding reduced midyear by \$165 per pupil, triggering layoffs of teachers and support staff throughout the state. The “20J” districts that traditionally had higher per-pupil funding suffered deeper cuts. In addition, a \$5 million before- and after-school program was eliminated.

Every student who does not complete high school costs our society an estimated \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.

Source: Riley, R.W., and Peterson, T.K. (September 19, 2008). “Before the Either-Or’ Era: Reviving Bipartisanship to Improve America’s Schools.” Education Week.

“The readiness gap becomes an achievement gap when children enter school...”

Source: Casey Foundation *Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of the Third Grade Matters*, 2010

Michigan Fourth Graders Who Read Below a Proficient Level by Race and Hispanic Origin

64%

White

91%

African-American

58%

Asian and Pacific Islander

83%

Hispanic or Latino

Source: NAEP 2009