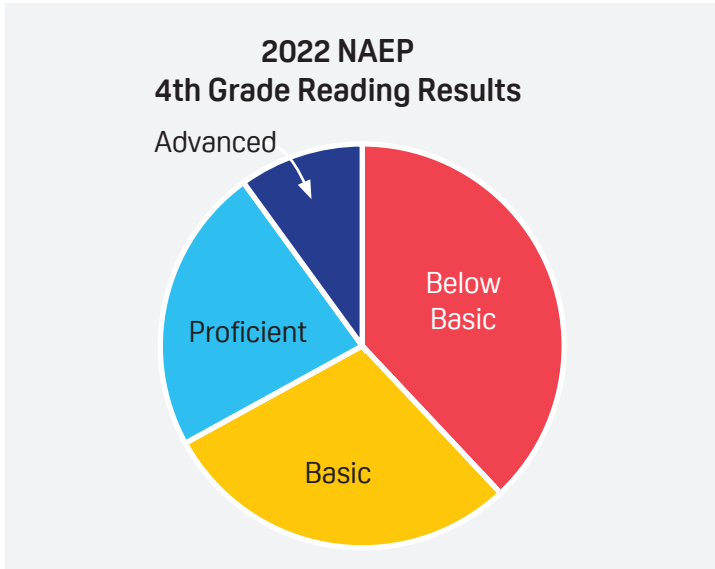


THE ILLINOIS LITERACY CRISIS IS URGENT AND SOLVABLE. YOU CAN HELP FIX IT!

Almost 40% of Illinois 4th graders read below a 'Basic' level.

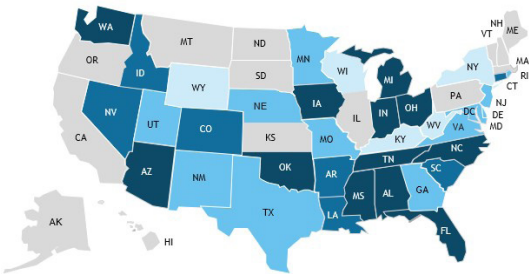
With the right instruction and support, almost every child – regardless of zip code, race, ethnicity, neurodiversity, home language, or income – can learn to read. Despite heroic educator efforts to develop children’s literacy, systemic failures often deprive teachers of knowledge, professional training, tools, and support that enable them to deliver evidence-based literacy instruction that reaches every student.



The Annie E. Casey Foundation found that, compared to grade-level readers, third graders who do not read proficiently are:

- more likely to drop out of high school, and
- more likely to drop out of high school if their family is low-income.

Most states have taken action, but Illinois lags behind.



- Comprehensive K-3 Reading Policy
- Majority of Fundamental Principles with Intervention and/or Promotion Policy
- Same Fundamental Principles
- Minimal Fundamental Principles with Intervention
- Minimal or No Fundamental Principles

Literacy is critical to social, economic, and health justice, which makes improving literacy outcomes a top public policy priority. Some of the policy initiatives in states or other districts include:

- Evidence-based literacy coaching programs
- Effective professional development opportunities in evidence-based literacy instruction
- Increased literacy instruction in educator preparation programs
- High-quality literacy curricula that provides explicit, direct, and sequential instruction
- Early screening and support for struggling readers
- Research-aligned preschool and summer school

Thirty-six states have passed legislation to help improve literacy outcomes and support the delivery of evidence-based reading instruction. **It is time for Illinois to join that list!**



LITERACY & JUSTICE FOR ALL

2023 is Illinois' Year to Improve Literacy Outcomes

FALL 2020	FALL 2020	SPRING 2021	SPRING 2022	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023
ILBC Education Pillar includes literacy reforms, but omits them from final bill to continue discussions	IASB Delegation votes with 89% support to include literacy reforms to education prep programs in its platform	Illinois Early Literacy Coalition forms	The Right to Read Act is filed, but held for ISBE summit	Ongoing: ISBE Literacy Summit kicks off agency's literacy efforts	Literacy & Justice for All Bill Package is filed

The Literacy & Justice for All Bill Package

SB2243 (LIGHTFORD)	HB2872 (MAYFIELD)	requires the State Board of Education (ISBE) to adopt a comprehensive literacy plan for Illinois by October 1, 2023.
SB2244 (LIGHTFORD)	HB2865 (MAYFIELD)	narrows the scope of the long-unfunded Reading Improvement Block Grant (RIBG), enabling a cohort of districts to make significant literacy reforms, providing valuable insight through data as broader reforms are considered.
SB2245 (LIGHTFORD)	HB3147 (FAVER DIAS)	enacts comprehensive literacy reforms for Illinois, including contents of the above two bills and provisions to:

- **Support school districts with evidence-based literacy curriculum and instruction by requiring ISBE to make available:**
 - a rubric to evaluate core literacy curricula for its alignment to evidence-based practices and cultural inclusivity
 - a template to support school districts to develop comprehensive, district-wide literacy plans
 - guidance on evidence-based literacy coaching structures to support teachers and close opportunity gaps among student demographic groups
- **Support educators with evidence-based training and development by requiring ISBE to:**
 - develop a microcredential(s) in comprehensive, evidence-based literacy instruction
 - create a tool to evaluate professional development and training programs related to literacy instruction
 - establish evidence-based literacy instruction online training modules accepted for continuing professional development units
- **Support teacher candidates with foundational literacy *without* requiring passage of another licensure test by:**
 - requiring coursework in evidence-based reading methods.
 - supplying a low-stakes foundational reading assessment for candidates seeking licensure in relevant areas, paid for by the State at no cost to candidates or programs, beginning with candidates seeking licensure after October 1, 2025.
 - **Candidates need not achieve a particular score on the test; however, candidates who achieve a passing score earn an additional credential on their license.** ISBE shall consider this information during each program's reaccreditation process and shall aggregate and publish the number of candidates in each program who take the test and the number who pass. Candidates who have taken the test previously need not take it again for additional licensure areas.

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