



THE US LITERACY CRISIS

Literacy may not be a top issue in political campaigns, but it should be. Reading is the foundation for learning, maximizing opportunities in life, and advancing the pursuit of a well-balanced society.

THE STAKES ARE HIGH

Research shows that students who are not reading proficiently in third grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school on time—hindering their chances to live happy, healthy, productive lives. Economists predict a shortfall of five million workers with a college education by 2020.

LITERACY = OPPORTUNITY

If we want our communities and country to be successful, we need to ensure our students are afforded every opportunity to reach their full potential—and that starts with literacy.



US elementary school students from low-income households are

not reading at grade level.

This alarming number includes **4 out of every 5** economically disadvantaged fourth graders.



Research demonstrates that **volunteer-driven tutoring programs can be highly effective** in helping students advance their literacy development.



Literacy fuels a robust, inclusive democracy—by learning to read, the next generation of voters will be **better informed and more civically active.**

What is #ReadingMatters2020?

Reading Partners is launching a nonpartisan campaign to ensure voters of all stripes are hyper-aware of the critical role reading plays in ensuring bright futures for US students. Let's rally together to strengthen our communities by advocating for early literacy education.

Take action:

- 1 CONTRIBUTE**
Become a volunteer tutor or donor with a proven program like [Reading Partners](#) and help young students build the reading skills and confidence they will need to reach their full potential.
- 2 SHARE**
Share the [#ReadingMatters2020 campaign video](#) with your network to spread the word about the positive ripple effect that comes from helping a child learn to read.
- 3 ADVOCATE**
Tell your local, state, and national [elected officials](#) that literacy is an important issue they cannot ignore.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”
—Unknown”



READING PARTNERS

Reading Partners is a leading national literacy nonprofit that partners with under-resourced elementary schools and engages volunteer tutors to help students who struggle with reading unlock and develop the foundational skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Your action counts. Rise up for reading for all.
readingpartners.org/readingmatters2020