



Literacy is opportunity.

Literacy is not just one's ability to read. It is the lowest common denominator of all our community problems, from unemployment and financial instability to poor health and crime.

Low literacy weakens an individual's ability to reach his or her goals, a family's ability to provide for its children, and can decimate an entire generation. Literacy instruction provides an opportunity reverse an adult's struggle and the negative impact in our community. Join the Coalition to provide opportunity for all.

Tarrant County	Texas	The United States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in five adults in Tarrant County (240,000) cannot read well enough to succeed at a fourth grade level. (<i>National Assessment of Adult Literacy Survey</i>). • However, probably less than 10,000 adults are enrolled in any kind of adult literacy program at the present time (<i>Tarrant Literacy Coalition</i>). <p>"Tarrant Literacy Coalition's leadership in this tremendous endeavor is an investment that provides an unparalleled return in the future of our great city." - Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a study of literacy indicators of 69 metro areas with populations over 250,000, Fort Worth ranked 45th and Arlington ranked 63rd (<i>Central Connecticut State University</i>). • Nearly half of adults read at a "Basic" or "Below Basic" level. At most, they can perform simple and everyday literacy tasks (<i>United Way of Tarrant County</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2008, Texas ranked 3rd in the nation among all states for the number of adults who took the GED test - 53,000 adults - an indication of the number of adults who do not have a high school diploma. (<i>American Council on Education, 2009</i>). • Literacy programs serve only 3.6% of the 3.8 million in need of adult basic education services (<i>Texas LEARNS, April 2005</i>). • Texas ranks 47 out of 50 states, in terms of English literacy levels (<i>U.S. Department of Education</i>). • High school dropouts cost Texas \$9.6 billion (<i>United Ways of Texas</i>). • Texas ranked 3rd in the nation for the most Spanish GED testers. In 2008, 3,558 adults took the Spanish-language GED test in Texas (<i>American Council on Education, 2009</i>). <p>Adult literacy "is a core social issue that if we could fix as a nation, we would make inroads into fixing many other social problems." -David Harvey, ProLiteracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. ranked fifth on adult literacy skills when compared to other industrialized nations (<i>ProLiteracy</i>). <p>"Literacy is the building block of a healthy and sustainable community." - Jill "J.R." Labbe, Fort Worth Star-Telegram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirty million people, or 14% of the adult population, cannot read materials written at an eighth grade level or fill out a job application (<i>ProLiteracy</i>). • A rise of 1% in literacy scores leads to a 2.5% rise in labor productivity and a 1.5% rise in the country's GDP (<i>The Economist, August 28, 2004</i>). • Annual healthcare costs in the U.S. are six times higher for adults who are considered to have low literacy skills than for those with high level literacy skills (<i>ProLiteracy</i>). • More than 60% of all state and federal corrections inmates are considered "functionally illiterate". (<i>ProLiteracy</i>).
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