

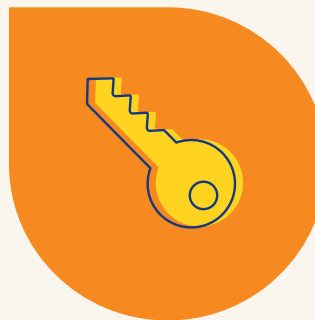
Literacy

is



the

Key



Literacy Powers Learning

Early literacy is the key to a successful future for Arizona's children. Every child can learn to read, and it's time to prioritize literacy instruction, strategies, and methods that are proven to work. Arizona's children and our future workforce cannot wait.

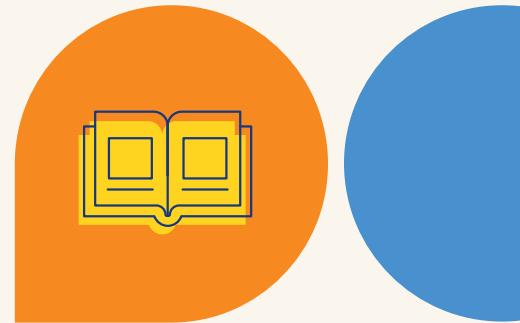
Currently, fewer than half of Arizona's third-graders read proficiently, a challenge with far-reaching consequences for students, schools, and the state's workforce. Research shows that ensuring students can read proficiently by the end of third grade is the single most important factor in preparing them for future learning and work.

Every investment in early literacy is an investment in Arizona's economy and future. Strong readers become innovative workers, engaged citizens, and community leaders. Foundational literacy skills must be developed during the early years and early grades to reach this milestone by third grade.

We can make progress

By utilizing proven reading strategies, the state can make progress in increasing the number of Arizona students who read proficiently by third grade.

- ★ We need students in school and must cut chronic absence by at least half.
- ★ Once in school, we need to ensure students get reading instruction that is proven to work by empowering educators with research-backed methods and tools.
- ★ Many Arizona teachers are already equipped with the knowledge and skills to teach reading successfully. But we need to ensure that all teachers have the same access to high-quality instruction, coaching and tools.



What it will take

To significantly increase the number of proficient readers, Arizona must bring proven and effective approaches to every student, in every classroom, and in every community. Literacy is the Key aims to communicate proven approaches to improve literacy:



Arizona must leverage every dollar of its early literacy investments to deliver meaningful results for our young learners.



All schools should use high-quality instructional materials, coaching, and tools based on approaches proven to be successful in developing young readers.



Families need to know how their children are progressing in reading, and how to support them at home.

Let's spread the word

Read On Arizona created communications materials to reach audiences across Arizona with the message that Literacy is the Key. We invite you to incorporate these resources into your own efforts to promote proven strategies that create strong readers.

LiteracyIsTheKey.org

