



Children's Action Alliance

A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988

Three Out of Every Four 4th Graders in Arizona CANNOT Read Proficiently

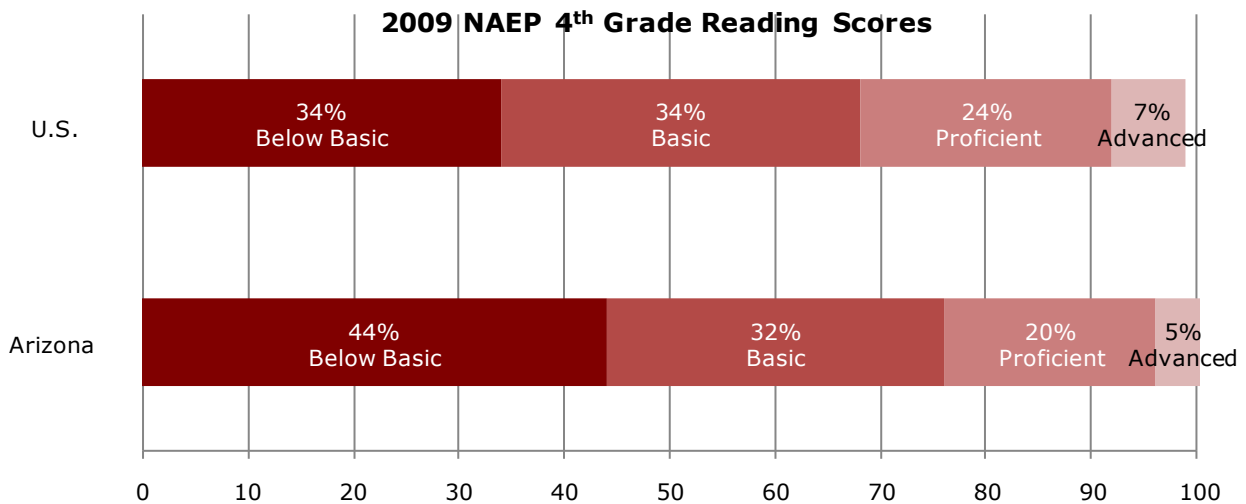


75% of students who are poor readers in third grade will remain poor readers in high school.

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

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/>)

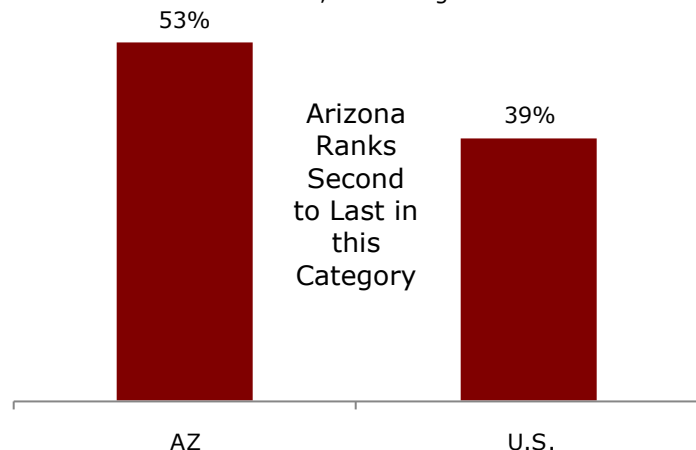


Arizona Ranks 45th Worst in the Nation for the Percent of 4th Graders Who Read at a Proficient Level or Above

"For low-income children in particular, a 'readiness gap' fuels much of what has become known as the achievement gap. Readiness includes being in good health; having the support of a strong family; feeling safe; and having positive social interaction skills, language skills, the motivation to learn, emotional and behavioral self-control, and physical skills and capacities."

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

Children Ages 3 to 5 **Not** Enrolled in Nursery School, Preschool, or Kindergarten

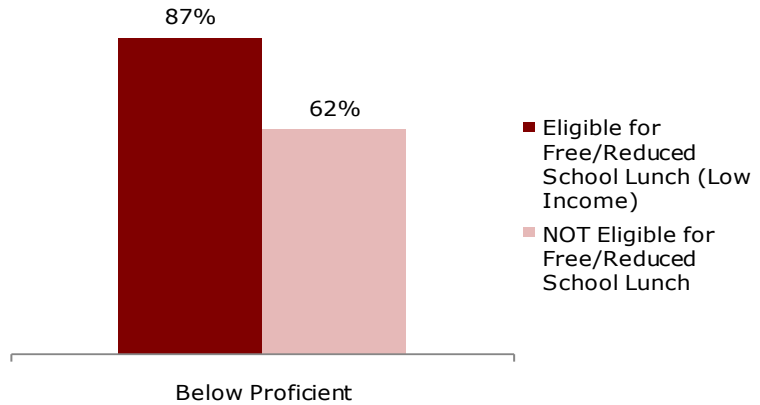


Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of 2008 American Community Survey microdata.

Low Income Students Score Worse Than Their Counterparts

"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's *Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, 2010



State Budget Cuts Threaten Early Literacy

Governor Brewer and the Arizona legislature have cut funding for public schools, including funding for teachers, classroom supplies, and curriculum. All state appropriated funding has been **completely eliminated** for:

- Full-day Kindergarten
- The Early Childhood Block Grant that was used by school districts for preschool and other educational services, like reading aids
- The Family Literacy program for parents and young children
- The Healthy Families parent coaching for struggling families

Other budget cuts mean that qualified children in low-income families are no longer able to sign up for child care assistance or KidsCare health coverage. More than 11,000 children have been turned away from child care since February 2009 and 40,500 children have been frozen out of KidsCare already.

Arizona Ranks #42 in the Nation for the Percentage of Children ages 1 to 5 Whose Family Members Read to Them Fewer Than 3 Days per Week (17%)

Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health.



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.

AZ 4th Graders Who Read Below a Proficient Level by Race and Hispanic Origin

