Overview

Being able to learn and understand at school, work, the bank and the doctor’s office is key to a successful education and bright, healthy futures.

Each year children spend about 900 hours in school versus 7,800 hours out of school. This means family is critical to a child’s education.

More families are making family time learning time. Time spent learning and engaged in educational play with your children will give them advantages for years to come. Parental involvement is a more significant factor in children’s academic performance than the quality of their school.

Literacy affects us all and is a challenge for many. The Flint & Genesee Literacy Network is committed to improving the quality of life of all learners in Genesee County.

Literacy affects all of us and the quality of our lives. It takes many forms: reading/writing, health and financial and is a challenge for many. The Flint & Genesee Literacy Network is made up of hundreds of individuals and organizations committed to improving literacy rates in Genesee County.


The Flint & Genesee Literacy Network Literacy for Life.

Flint & Genesee Literacy Network

The Flint & Genesee Literacy Network currently consists of a variety of community stakeholder organizations, and has launched an ongoing collaboration to align and improve literacy resources and services in Flint and Genesee County. The central idea of the Network is that solving the basic skills challenges requires new approaches to improving basic skills. In line with the strategic components of the recently adopted City of Flint Master Plan, the Network is committed to building on the strengths of community organizations, as well as ensuring that individuals needing to improve their literacy skills have access to sufficient and appropriate information.

COMMUNITY-LEVEL RESULTS OF THE NETWORK

- Children enter Kindergarten ready to learn
- Children are succeeding in school
- People are prepared for and succeeding in post-secondary education
- People are employed at a living wage

OUR DEFINITION OF LITERACY

“An individual’s ability to read, write, speak in English, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in society.”

- Workforce Investment Act, 1998
The Issue

Genesee County is challenged by a silent crisis: up to 10% of adult residents live with low literacy skills. Many are unable to use a bus schedule effectively, calculate change at a restaurant, complete a job application, or read the information on a prescription bottle. This crisis severely limits the region’s potential for future growth and prosperity. Parents with limited skills are less able to assist their children and a cycle of intergenerational low literacy is perpetuated. A brief highlight of the crisis includes:

- 99% of early education providers are rated below top quality in the State of Michigan’s quality rating program
- 29% of 4th graders are below the State of Michigan’s standard in Reading
- 72% of 8th graders are below the State of Michigan’s standard in Math
- 23% of high school freshman do not graduate with their class
- 11% of adults do not have a high school diploma
- 5 of the 7 most common occupations in Michigan have a median wage that will not bring a family of four out of poverty

Flint & Genesee Literacy Network is joining more than 120 literacy coalitions across the nation that are working to raise their community’s literacy levels and address these issues.

Statistics

**PERCENT OF ADULTS (AGES 18-24) NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE**

| United States 16.2% | Michigan 15% | Genesee County 19.5% |

**PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVING IN POVERTY**

| United States 20.8% | Michigan 22.8% | Genesee County 30% |

**PERCENT OF STUDENTS PROFICIENT IN GRADE 3 READING**

| United States 68% | Michigan 65.5% | Genesee County 65% |

**PERCENT OF ADULTS LACKING BASIC LITERACY SKILLS**

| United States 14.5% | Michigan 3% | Genesee County 10% |

**PERCENT OF ADULTS (25+) WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENCY**

| United States 10.2% | Michigan 11.3% | Genesee County 11.1% |

The Flint & Genesee Literacy Network is made up of hundreds of organizations and individuals that are committed to improving the quality of life for all learners. To learn more please call 810.232.2526.