

GRADE-LEVEL READING PROFICIENCY

BEGIN AT BIRTH

3

WHY THIRD GRADE? It's a pivotal point in children's education where they go from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*.

Literacy begins during the early years

A strong foundation for literacy and learning is built by:



Nearly **85%** of brain growth happens during the first three years of life

and is powered by healthy brain development



Health and Development on Track, Starting at Birth



Supported and Supportive Families and Communities



High Quality Early Care and Education



Effective Teaching and Learning in K-3 Classrooms

Many children across the state are growing up without resources

1 in 4 NC Kids lives in poverty



and opportunities that support future reading and learning success

North Carolina has made important progress in



Improving reading proficiency rates

TOTAL	38%
Asian/Pacific Islander	59%
Amer. Indian/Alaska Native	19%
Black	23%
Hispanic	23%
White	51%
Low-Income	25%

But too few students are reading at grade level and gaps by income, race, and ethnicity persist

Our Challenge

NC ranks **18th**

in the nation for the percent of students reading proficiently. Grade-level reading is achievable. Together, we can improve outcomes for young children and promote their future reading and academic success.

For more data and information about the well-being of children across the state, or in your county, visit:

www.ncchild.org/data