

Rural Literacy and Public Libraries

What Is Literacy?

The ability to use printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential.

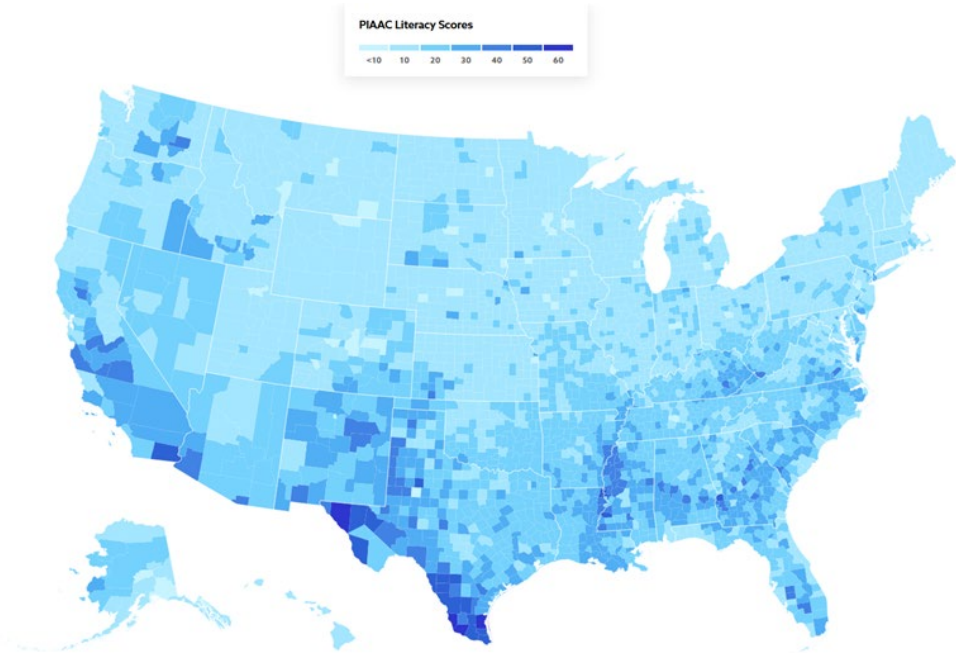
Background of U.S. Childhood Literacy

34% of children entering kindergarten lack basic early literacy skills

65% of children in 4th grade read below grade level

37% of high school graduates are at or above reading proficiency

Background of Adult Literacy in the US



<https://map.barbarabush.org/overview#intro>

48% at Level 3 or above

33% at Level 2

19% at or below Level 1

Childhood Literacy Levels in Vermont

17% of children entering kindergarten are not school-ready

57% of children in 4th grade read below grade level

Around 40-50% of high school graduates are at or above reading proficiency

At or above Level 3
literacy: 54%

At Level 2 literacy:
33%

At or below Level 1
literacy: 13%

Almost 42,000
Vermonters have
not graduated
from high school.

Around 12,000
Vermonters have
not completed 9th
grade.

Generational
illiteracy

Adult Literacy Levels in Vermont

Why It Matters for Children

Predictors of low literacy skills

Impacts of early literacy

Literacy in school

Outcomes for children with low literacy



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Why It Matters for Adults

- Economic impacts
- Civic impacts
- Social impacts
- Health impacts

Challenges for Children in Rural Areas

18.1% of rural children live in poverty

15.7% of children experienced food insecurity

Lack access to early reading opportunities



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Challenges for Adults in Rural Areas

SHAME

NO ACCESS TO LIBRARY

LACK OF RESOURCES

Challenges for Libraries in Rural Areas

- No one-size-fits-all approach
- Isolation
- Lack of resources



What Can Rural Libraries Do?

Research demographics

Available library resources

Community resources

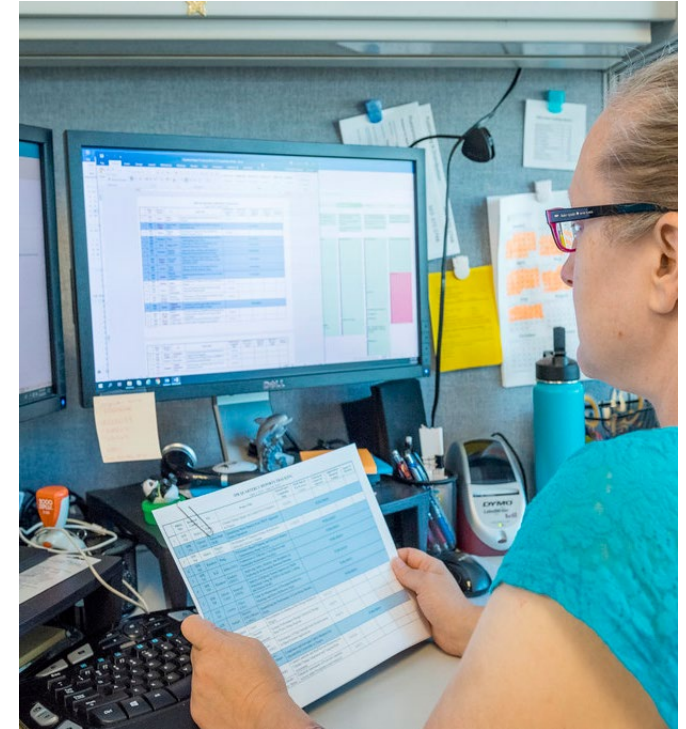


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How Can Rural Libraries Impact Childhood Literacy?

- Every Child Ready to Read
- Supercharged Storytimes
- Get books to children
- Partner with school librarians



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How Can Rural Libraries Impact Adult Literacy?

- An information center
- An adult education and GED support center
- GED online and test prep center
- Basic adult literacy/adult education center
- Post-GED career and continuing education support center

Existing Organizations

- Vermont Adult Learning
- Central Vermont Basic Adult Education
- Northeast Kingdom Learning Services
- The Tutorial Center
- Children's Literacy Foundation
- Vermont Humanities Council



Vermont Adult Learning
Learning Lasts a Lifetime



Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.
Local Partnerships in Learning
Serving Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties



The
TUTORIAL
CENTER, INC.



H **Vermont**
Humanities



Other Partner Organizations

CHURCHES

SERVICE CLUBS

BUSINESSES

OTHER NONPROFITS

Special Considerations

- English language learners
- Blind Patrons
- Deaf Patrons
- Patrons with learning disabilities

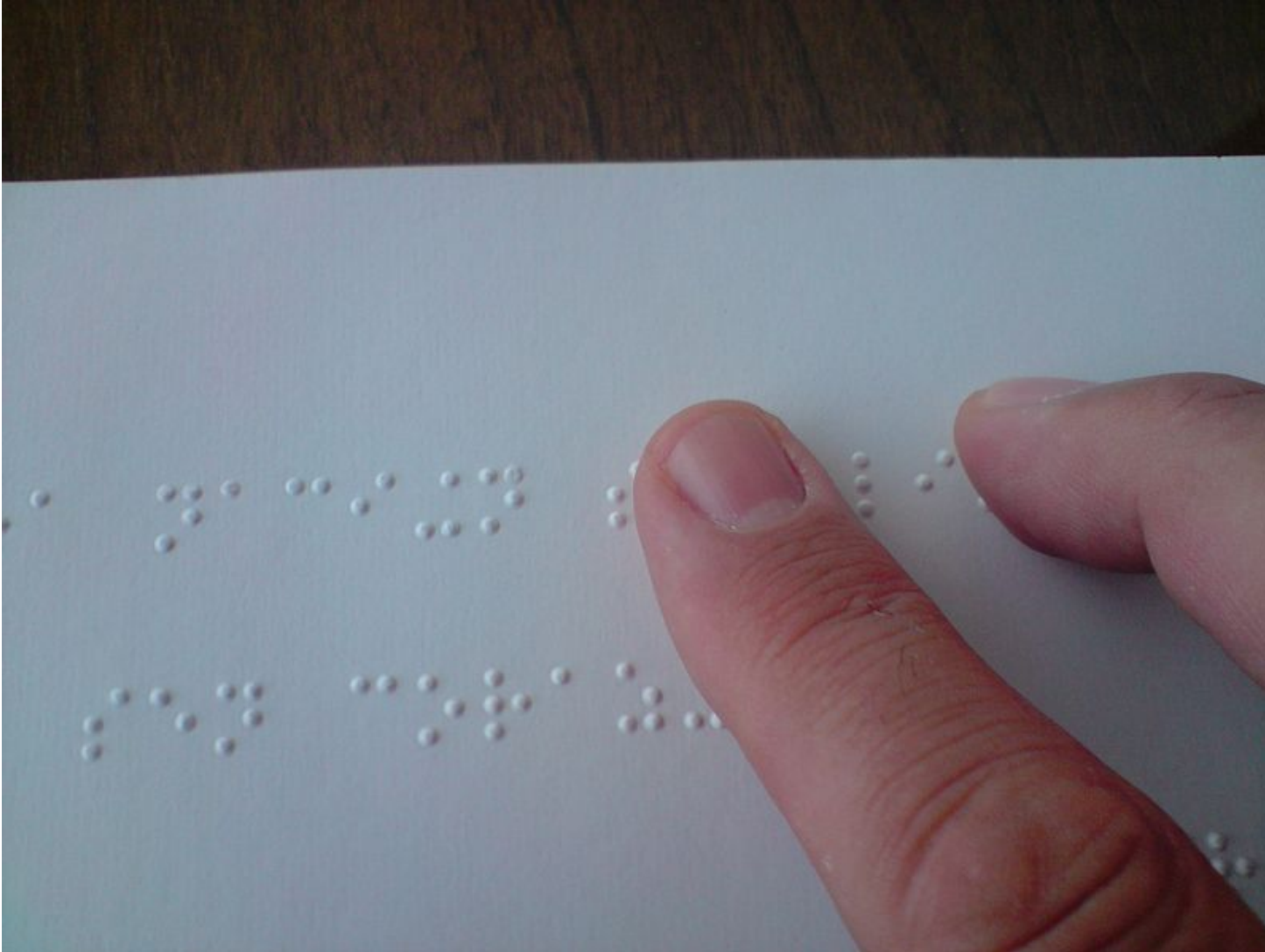


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Questions?

Sources

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- [National Center for Education Statistics \(NCES\) Home Page, a part of the U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [42,000 Vermonters Lack High School Education, But Program Seeks To Help Adults Graduate | New England Public Media \(nepm.org\)](#)
- [PIAAC Skills Map \(ed.gov\)](#)
- [Low Literacy Levels Among U.S. Adults Could Be Costing The Economy \\$2.2 Trillion A Year \(forbes.com\)](#)
- [Crafting a Successful Adult Education Program for Small, Rural and/or Part-time Libraries \(webjunction.org\)](#)
- [The Challenge | Causes of Low Literacy | Literacy Pittsburgh](#)
- [Literacy Statistics \(begintoread.com\)](#)
- [How Serious Is America's Literacy Problem? | Library Journal](#)
- [Child Illiteracy in America: Statistics, Facts, and Resources | Regis College](#)
- [Fifty Top Literacy Statistics - Ferst Readers](#)
- [By the Numbers: Dropping Out of High School | Dropout Nation | FRONTLINE | PBS | Official Site](#)
- [Improving mothers' literacy skills may be best way to boost children's achievement | National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)
- [Addressing the Challenges of Rural K-12 Students | Edutopia](#)
- [2018-end-of-childhood-report-us.pdf \(savethechildren.org\)](#)
- [R4K!S 2020-2021 Report | Agency of Education \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Resources

- [Literacy Gap Map \(barbarabush.org\)](#)
- [Northeast Kingdom Learning Services - \(nkhs.org\)](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Vermont; United States](#)
- [Vermont Adult Learning: https://vtadultlearning.org](#)
- [Central Vermont Adult Basic Education - cvabe.org](#)
- [The Tutorial Center \(tutoringvermont.org\)](#)
- [Children's Literacy Foundation - Opening books, opening minds, opening doors \(clifonline.org\)](#)
- [Vermont Humanities | Inspiring a love of reading and learning](#)
- [WebJunction Course Catalog : Supercharged Storytimes](#)
- [Literacy is the Answer | John Trischitti | TEDxACU – YouTube](#)
- [Crafting a Successful Adult Education Program for Small, Rural and/or Part-time Libraries \(webjunction.org\)](#)