



Students reading well by 3rd grade are four times more likely to graduate high school. However, fewer than 7 out of 10 read at grade level at that critical milestone.

What our state can do:

- 1) Continue improving early learning programs while creating a great early learning handoff to reduce achievement gaps early. Build strong partnerships between families, community-based providers, and schools to fully support students in their transition from early learning to the K-12 system.
- 2) Implement full-day kindergarten programs that are robust, joyful, and focus on literacy.
- 3) Partner with community-based organizations to provide summer and after-school programs for students who are starting further behind or struggling to learn to read, with a particular focus on students of color and students in poverty.
- 4) Consistently implement robust and highly effective literacy programs across each district and across the state. An effective literacy plan will include the following three things:
 - 1) Excellent teaching strategies that are culturally relevant
 - 2) Aligned curriculum within grades and throughout grades
 - 3) Evidenced-based interventions for struggling students

In the 2013-14 School Year:

Over 14,000 Oregon students - or 34% - were not reading at grade level in 3rd grade, including:

- 7,000 students of color
- 10,800 students who are living in poverty

"If our state truly wants to improve graduation rates we have to start early with a solid focus on literacy. This is one of the best investments in student learning we can make and the payoff for our students and our state is huge. I encourage all parents – whatever language you speak at home – to take time to read with your child daily."
 - Rob Saxton, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Addressing Learning Gaps Early

- 85% of poor readers receiving intervention before 3rd grade can increase reading skills to average levels.
- 75% of those receiving intervention after age nine will struggle with reading throughout their lives.

A Focus on Early Reading is a Wise Investment

When we improve our 3rd grade reading rates we will:

- Reduce the need for remediation down the line – saving valuable resources.
- Reduce special education identification by up to 2% through the use of proven programs such as Response to Intervention. This will result in over 11,000 fewer students in special education and will free up over \$76 million in education dollars which can be reinvested elsewhere.
- Improve our graduation rates, which will positively impact our state's economy. If 100% of students graduate each year, about 8,500 additional students would earn a high school diploma. The lifetime gains in wages from those students is about \$2.64 billion or about \$65.94 million annually.