

Literacy Minnesota



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OUR MISSION

Literacy Minnesota connects people to transformative learning, sparks innovation in literacy and mobilizes change.

OUR VISION

A future where literacy eliminates injustice and strengthens communities.



WHY LITERACY?

- **Functional literacy is critical** for navigating the workforce, advocating for oneself and fulfilling basic needs.
- **Of all adults in the United States, more than half (54%)** read below a sixth-grade literacy level and nearly one in five (about 43 million Americans) read below the third-grade level, which means they can do no more than read simple, short texts when locating information.¹
- Children of parents with low literacy are **10 times more likely** to be at the lowest literacy levels themselves, making them more likely to struggle in class or drop out of school.²
- There are **9,883,443 unemployed individuals** in the United States³, of which at least **3,261,536 lack foundational digital skills**.⁴ These individuals may not even begin to compete for an estimated 6,925,017 or 75.2% of job openings which require such skills.⁵
- Parents who gain written and digital literacy skills are more likely to positively influence their children's academic achievement, **helping to break cycles of poverty**.

1 [National Center for Education Statistics, PIAAC Results](#), 2017.

2 [ProLiteracy](#), U.S. Adult Literacy Facts.

3 Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 2021.

4 Estimation from data based upon the [National Skills Coalition research](#).

5 Estimation of data (state and national) from the BLS Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) and the BLS O-NET database.

OUR IMPACT →

Literacy Minnesota began in 1972 when a group of volunteers realized if one person taught someone to read, and that person taught someone to read, they could create a movement. Today, we have grown to include:

3
educational sites

4,003
webinar trainees

5K+
resource downloads

Our Open Door campuses and satellite sites in Minneapolis and Saint Paul offer free adult basic-skills classes led by staff and trained volunteers.

4,003 national educators—both volunteers and staff—attended 109 Literacy Minnesota led tutor-training webinars.

We are the national thought leader in literacy resources. 6,236 documents and teaching tools were downloaded from our online Educator Resources Library between July 2024 and June 2025.

27
National Service partnerships

Our AmeriCorps Literacy Leaders developed 27 local and national partnerships in addition to the annual Summer Reads members serving in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota.

1.5M+
Northstar assessments taken

Digital literacy learners took 1,583,845 assessments through our Northstar Digital Literacy platform last year, giving them a way to demonstrate computer skills to potential employers.

JOIN US

Be part of the movement by becoming a donor or volunteer.

To learn about ways to support, contact Susan Godon at sgodon@literacymn.org or 651-251-9092, or give online at literacymn.org/give.

To learn about volunteering, contact Sophie Phan at sphan@literacymn.org or 651-251-9063, or visit literacymn.org/ways-to-volunteer.

Read more about our work at literacymn.org/annual-reports-financials.

