

How Well Do 4th Graders Read in Your County?

Number in the red bar is the percentage **Not Proficient**. Number in green is the percentage **Proficient**.



WESTest2 - 4th Grade Reading and Language Arts School Year 2011-12



West Virginia KIDS COUNT

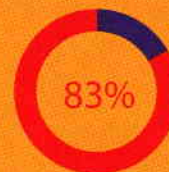
ARE WEST VIRGINIA Reading

Why Being a Good 4th Grade Reader Matters

- Until the end of 3rd grade, children are "learning to read." Starting in 4th grade, they are "reading to learn."



- More than **7 in 10** West Virginia students are not reading proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.
- Three out of 4 students who are poor readers by the end of 3rd grade will remain poor readers in high school.



- **83%** of 4th graders in low-income families have reading skills that are below proficient, while only 55% of 4th graders in moderate- and high-income families are below proficient.
- **83%** of low-income kids are at increased risk of not graduating because they can't read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.

What West Virginia Can Do to Ensure T

- Develop an early care and education system that aligns programs for children from birth through 3rd grade to improve reading proficiency.
- Expand the state's universal Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) program to include all 3-year-olds.
- Develop a comprehensive literacy plan designed to improve 4th grade reading.