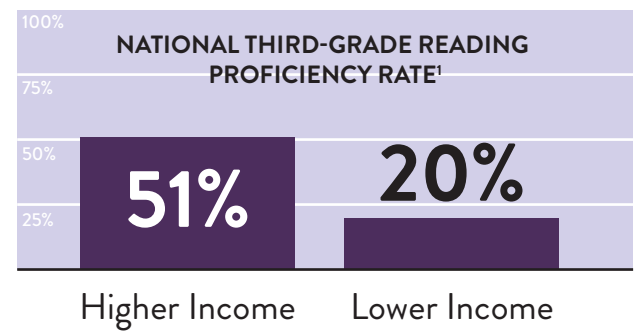


Third-Grade Reading Proficiency

Reading proficiently by the end of third grade allows students to shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn,” and is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Yet every year, a disproportionate number of low-income children in the US miss this crucial milestone.



Every student who does not complete high school costs our society an estimated \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes and productivity.²

RESEARCH POINTS TO THREE AREAS WHERE COMMUNITIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

1

THE READINESS GAP

Too many children from low-income families begin school already far behind.

By age 5, a typical middle-income child recognizes 22 letters of the alphabet, compared to 9 for a child from a low-income family.³

Low-income children hear as many as

30 Million

fewer words than their more affluent peers.³

RATIO OF AGE-APPROPRIATE BOOKS PER CHILD⁴

Middle-Income: 13 books per child

Low-Income: 1 book per 300 children

2

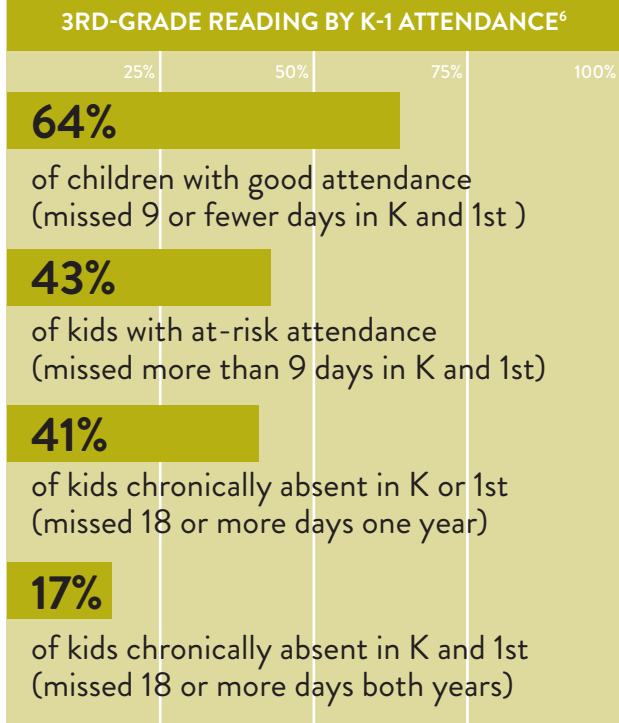
THE ATTENDANCE GAP

Too many children from low-income families miss too many days of school.

Among low-income kids in the US

2 in 10

missed more than 18 days of school.⁵

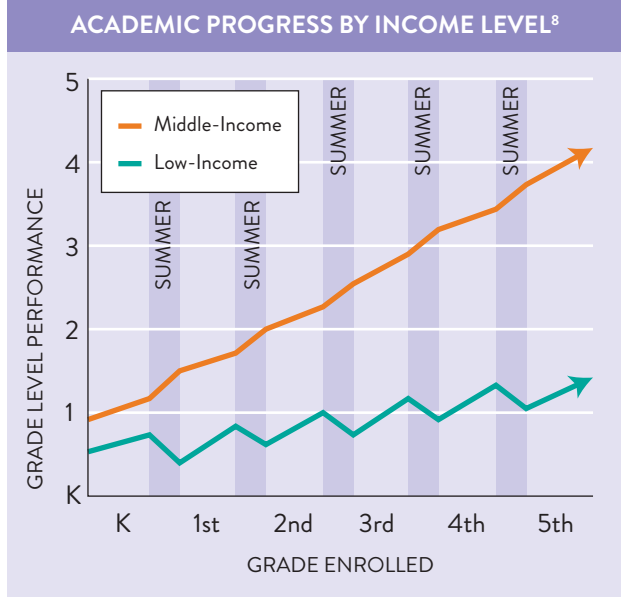


3

THE SUMMER SLIDE

Children from low-income families often lose ground over the summer months.

Without access to enriching summer activities, research shows that children lose as much as 3 months of reading comprehension skills over the summer.



By the end of 5th grade, low-income students are often as much as 2 grade levels behind their peers.

DUBUQUE CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING

3RD GRADE READING SUCCESS MATTERS

Dubuque’s Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is working to close these gaps by promoting and supporting:

- ▶ School readiness
- ▶ Regular attendance
- ▶ Parents as their children’s first teachers
- ▶ Quality teaching
- ▶ Summer learning programs

OUR GOAL

By 2020, we’ll reduce by half the number of students not reading proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

TURN THE PAGE TO SEE HOW WE’RE DOING IN DUBUQUE

Indicators of Third-Grade Reading Proficiency in Dubuque*

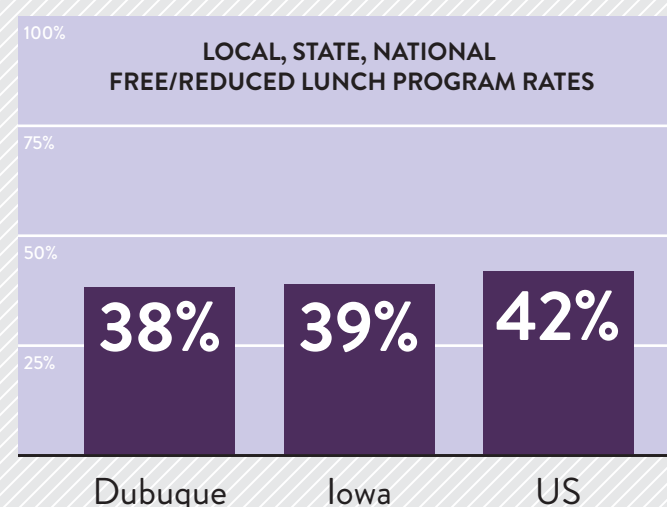
BE INFORMED. GET INVOLVED.

OVERVIEW

Dubuque students living in low-income households:

38%

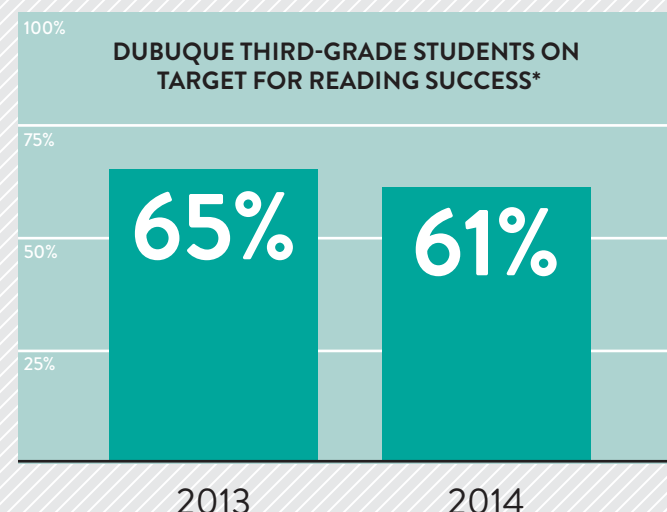
About 2 out of every 5 Dubuque children are in the free/reduced lunch program—an indicator of low-income status.



Dubuque third-grade students on target for reading success:

61%

About 1 out of every 3 Dubuque students were not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.



*Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) used as the measure of reading proficiency



Research shows that students who don't read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are **13 times** more likely to drop out of highschool.⁸

CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING FOCUS AREAS

Dubuque K-1 students who qualified for summer reading support:*

14%



427 students

were behind and needed the help of a summer reading program to get them back on track.

180 students

actually attended summer reading programs.



In 2013, 47 students participated in Summer Academy, a five-week, all-day, summer learning program.

84%

of those students maintained or improved reading proficiency.

Source: Summer Academy Data

SUMMER LEARNING

* 2013-2014 school year

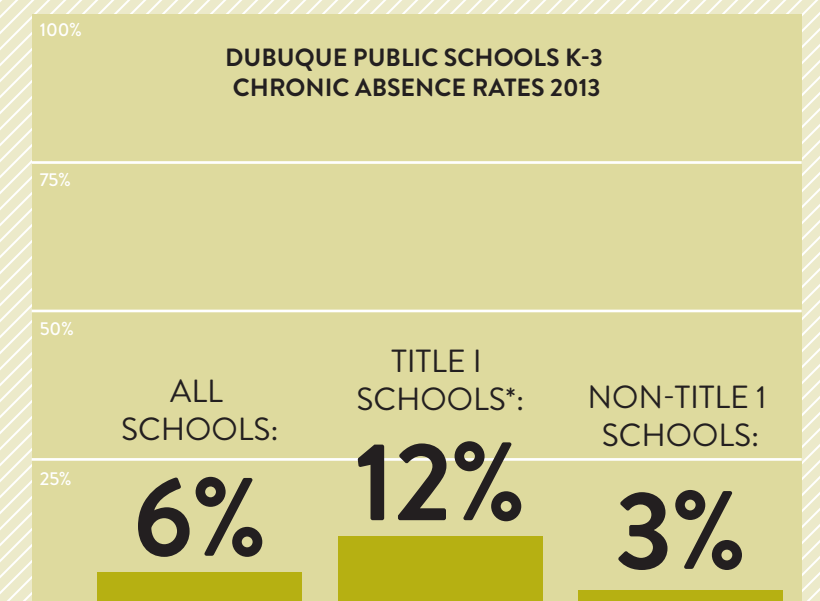
Dubuque K-3 Chronic Absence Rate:

6%

7%
↓
2%

GOOD NEWS!

Chronic absence at Fulton Elementary was reduced from 7% to 2% thanks to a successful attendance program in the '12-'13 school year. This program rolled out district-wide last year.



*A school with Title I status has a student population that is at least 40% low income (based on the U.S. Census definition of low income), qualifying the school for federal funding.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL READINESS

Dubuque kids who attended preschool last year:

92%

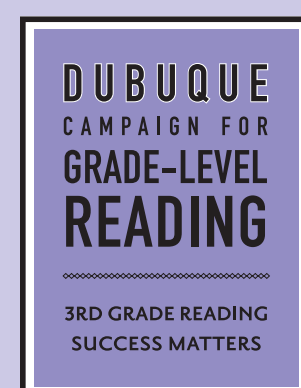
Dubuque kids who were ready for kindergarten last year:

96%



Dubuque ranks near the top of the state for school readiness.

Readiness is determined by an evaluation of four developmental domains (social/emotional, physical, language, cognitive) and two content areas (literacy and mathematics).



This report is intended to inform conversations, spark connections and spur collaboration. The indicators featured here provide data, building a picture of our collective successes and challenges as we seek to ensure opportunity for all of our children. What you see here is just a small snapshot of all the data we've collected. See the full report at www.readDBQ.org/report

To learn more visit www.dubuquespromise.org

*All local data provided by the Dubuque Community School District

• DUBUQUE SIGNS OF PROMISE 2014 •

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

1

Read and share this publication

2

See the full report at www.readDBQ.org/report

3

Sign up to participate and/or receive regular updates

Your involvement is essential. By engaging with this information, we can all work together to make better decisions, maximize the impact of limited resources, and ensure the success of our young people.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Signs of Promise is published by Every Child/Every Promise, a local initiative convening partners from philanthropy, business, government and youth-serving agencies with the goal of ensuring every child in Dubuque receives every opportunity to succeed. As a part of the Every Child/Every Promise mission, we assemble the annual *Promise Report*, a comprehensive look at our progress in keeping the Five Promises to our youth. From the quality of childcare in our community to the number of homeless youth, this report tracks the factors affecting our young people—so that we can improve outcomes and help our children to flourish.

What you see here is just a small snapshot of all the data we've collected. See the full report of grade-level reading indicators at www.readDBQ.org/report. The complete *Promise Report* is available at www.dubuquespromise.org/report.

ABOUT EVERY CHILD / EVERY PROMISE

In partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Every Child/Every Promise engages our community to promote collaboration among youth-serving agencies, eliminate duplication of services, gather effective data, and create a more efficient system to deliver the Five Promises to youth:



Caring Adults



Safe Places



A Healthy Start



An Effective Education

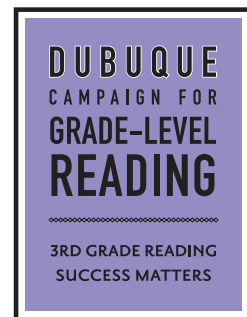


Opportunities to Serve

Every Child/Every Promise is committed to helping our community work together to create positive outcomes for children, youth and families. By studying national models of successful youth programs and combining those best practices with our own local data, our community can create exceptional initiatives that help to deliver the Five Promises to our youth. To learn more visit www.dubuquespromise.org.

SOURCES

1. *Early Reading Proficiency in the United States*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, January 29, 2014 <http://www.aecf.org/resources/early-reading-proficiency-in-the-united-states/>
2. *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, January 1, 2010 <http://www.aecf.org/resources/early-warning-why-reading-by-the-end-of-third-grade-matters/>
3. <http://gradelevelreading.net/our-work/school-readiness>
4. Neuman, Susan B. and David K. Dickinson, ed. *Handbook of Early Literacy Research*, Volume 2. New York, NY: 2006, p. 31. www.serve.gov/toolkits/book-drive/index.asp
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7. Cooper, H., Borman, G., & Fairchild, R. (2010). "School Calendars and Academic Achievement." in J Meece & J Eccles (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Schools, Schooling, and Human Development* (pp. 342-355). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
8. <http://gradelevelreading.net/video-the-statistics-lottery>



KEY PARTNERS

Alliant Energy
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Dubuque
Carnegie-Stout Public Library
City of Dubuque
Clarke University
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
Crescent Community Health Center
Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce
Dubuque Community School District
Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA
Dubuque County Early Childhood
Dubuque Racing Association (Mystique Casino/Diamond Jo Casino)
Every Child/Every Promise
Four Oaks: Parents as Teachers
Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools
Greater Dubuque Development Corporation
Holy Family Schools
Iowa State University Extension & Outreach
Loras College
Multicultural Family Center
Northeast Iowa Community College
Operation New View: Head Start
St. Mark Community Center
University of Dubuque

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To learn more visit www.dubuquespromise.org