

Evidence-Based Recommendations to Improve New Jersey’s Low-Income Literacy Crisis

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New Jersey has the lowest level of early childhood literacy progress among states.¹

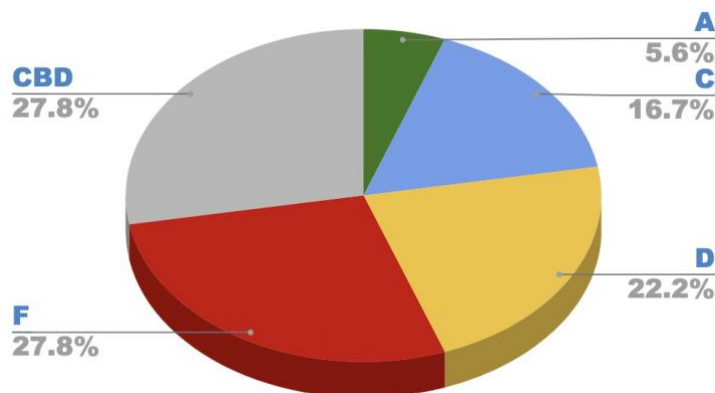
- ◆ Low-income Black children in many public schools do not attain 3rd grade reading proficiency.²
- ◆ Poor 3rd grade reading proficiency puts children at risk of high school dropout, low earnings potential, poor emotional and physical well-being, and incarceration.^{3,4,5}

Improve New Jersey’s Pre- and In-service Pedagogy Requirements

- ◆ New Jersey higher education programs fail to prepare new teachers with evidence-based pedagogy strategies.^{6,7}
- ◆ Evidence-based literacy pedagogy consists of 5 core components: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.^{14,15}
- ◆ Taken together, these components improve reading performance of all children including lower-income children who may be at risk of poor reading outcomes.^{8,13,14,15}

67%
OF NEW JERSEY TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS DO NOT ADEQUATELY TRAIN TEACHERS IN EVIDENCE BASED LITERACY INSTRUCTION STRATEGIES⁶.

Ratings of New Jersey’s Traditional Undergraduate Programs for Elementary Education (2020)⁷



A: program covers all 5 components, B: program covers 4 components, C: program covers 3 components, D: program covers 2 components, F: program covers 1 or 0 components, CBD: cannot be determined

- ◆ In-service teachers should be trained in comprehensive evidence-based strategies and be able to demonstrate this knowledge. In-service teachers should also be supported with coaching to effectively implement these practices.¹³

Growing National Trends

Legislation to ensure the use of evidence-based teacher instruction strategies was passed in North Carolina,⁹ Connecticut,¹⁰ Delaware,¹¹ and Tennessee,¹² in 2021. Mississippi,¹³ now ranked first in reading proficiency progress¹, passed their legislation mandating that teachers demonstrate proficiency in evidence-based practices in 2013.¹³

The National Council on Teacher Equality's Ratings of New Jersey's Traditional Undergraduate And Graduate Programs for Elementary Education, 2020⁷

INSTITUTION	PROGRAM	EARLY READING PROGRAM RATING
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Graduate	A
Seton Hall University	Undergraduate	A
Montclair State University	Undergraduate	C
Rider University	Undergraduate	C
Rutgers University - New Brunswick	Graduate	C
Saint Peter's University	Undergraduate	C
Centenary University	Undergraduate	D
College of New Jersey	Undergraduate	D
Monmouth University	Undergraduate	D
New Jersey City University	Undergraduate	D
Caldwell University	Graduate	F
Georgian Court University	Undergraduate	F
Kean University	Undergraduate	F
Montclair State University	Graduate	F
New Jersey City University	Graduate	F
Ramapo College of New Jersey	Undergraduate	F
Rowan University	Undergraduate	F
Rutgers University - Camden	Graduate	F
Stockton University	Undergraduate	F
Stockton University	Graduate	F
Bloomfield College	Undergraduate	CBD
Caldwell University	Undergraduate	CBD
College of New Jersey	Graduate	CBD
Felician University	Undergraduate	CBD
Felician University	Graduate	CBD
Georgian Court University	Graduate	CBD
Monmouth University	Graduate	CBD
Rider University	Graduate	CBD
Saint Elizabeth University	Undergraduate	CBD
William Paterson University of New Jersey	Undergraduate	CBD
William Paterson University of New Jersey	Graduate	CBD

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