

the state of

# LITERACY

in Summit County



**E**ighteen percent of adults living in Ohio struggle with completing bank deposit slips or reading bus schedules. Though they are not illiterate, they are not able to perform simple tasks. The National Institute for Literacy recently released statistics that for the first time provide literacy figures for nearly every city, county and congressional district in the U.S. The State of Literacy in America: Estimates at the Local, State and National Levels shows that 40-44 million adults nationwide who are struggling with literacy problems are falling further behind.

## Skills of adults at Level 1

(The lowest level of proficiency)

### Can usually perform:

- Sign one's name
- Locate one piece of information in an article
- Locate the expiration date on a driver's license
- Total a bank deposit entry

### Cannot usually perform:

- Locate eligibility form from a table of employee benefits
- Locate intersection on a street map
- Locate two pieces of information in an article
- Identify and enter background information on a social security card application
- Calculate total costs of purchase from an order form

## Impact of low literacy

**Poverty:** 43 percent of adults at Level 1 were living in poverty, compared to 4 percent of those at Level 5, the highest level of proficiency.

**Welfare:** The likelihood of being on welfare goes up as literacy levels go down. Three out of four food stamp recipients performed in the two lowest literacy levels.

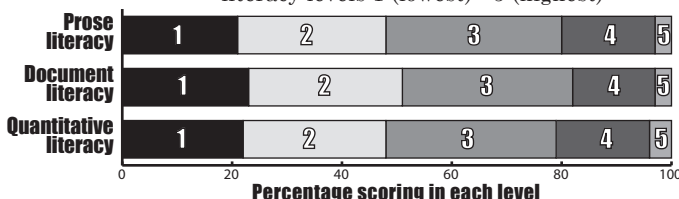
**Income:** Adults at Level 1 earned a median income of \$240 per week, compared to \$681 for those at Level 5.

**Employment status:** Adults at Level 1 worked an average of 19 weeks per year, compared to 44 weeks per year for those at Level 5.

**Crime:** Seven in 10 prisoners performed in the lowest two literacy levels.

## Literacy levels of adult Americans

literacy levels 1 (lowest) - 5 (highest)



## Literacy levels of adult Americans

(Percentage of adults at Level 1)

OHIO 18%

by Municipality

by County

Cuyahoga 25%

Medina 21%

Portage 11%

Stark 16%

Summit 18%

Wayne 15%

Akron	24%
Barberton	19%
Canton	25%
Cincinnati	29%
Cleveland	38%
Dayton	31%
Kent	10%
Medina	13%
North Canton	11%
Norton	14%
Portage Lakes	11%
Ravenna	18%
Stow	10%
Tallmadge	14%
Wadsworth	13%
Warren	24%
Youngstown	35%

## How to help

For additional information, or to volunteer as a tutor, contact

### Project Learn of Summit County:

60 S. High St.

Akron, Ohio 44326

330-434-9461

330-643-9195 (fax)

info@projectlearnsommit.org

<http://www.projectlearnsommit.org>



Tutors must have a high school diploma or GED and must complete 9 hours of training. Tutors learn to teach the skills of reading, writing and math. After completing workshop training, a tutor meets with his or her student at a mutually agreeable public setting for a 90-minute session twice a week.