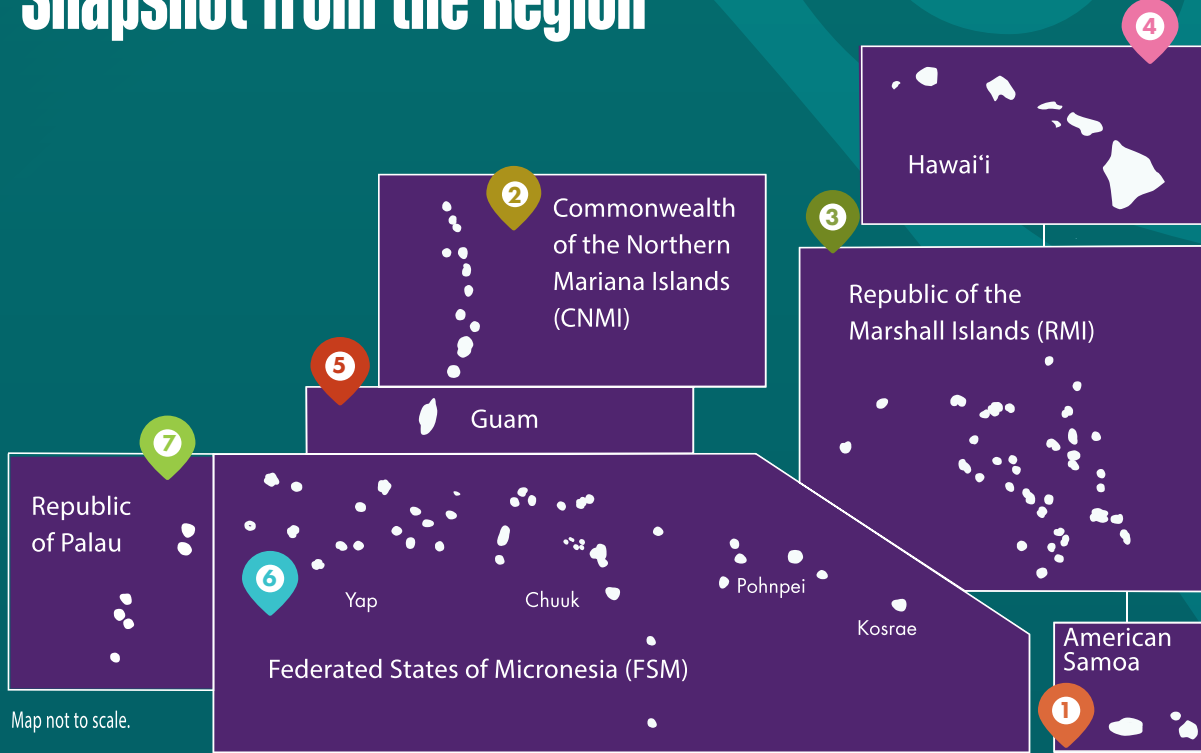


# The Importance of Early Literacy for Future Success

Students who reach grade-level proficiency in reading by grade 3 are four times more likely to graduate and succeed in their careers. In order to help students achieve positive outcomes, it is important for teachers and families alike to be aware of the influencing factors that can affect early literacy achievement level.

## Snapshot from the Region



- 27% of grade 3 students in American Samoa scored above the "basic" range in reading on the 2014–15 SAT-10.<sup>1</sup>
- 18% of students in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands scored in the "ready" or "exceeding" grade 3 reading proficiency levels on the 2016–17 ACT Aspire Reading assessment.<sup>2</sup>
- 25% of grade 3 students score proficient or higher in English reading on the 2017 Republic of the Marshall Islands MISAT exam.<sup>3</sup>
- 49% of grade 3 students in Hawai'i met or exceeded ELA and Literacy achievement levels on the 2016–2017 Smarter Balanced Assessment.<sup>4</sup>
- 10% of grade 3 students in Guam scored "ready" on the 2014-2015 ACT Aspire Reading Test.<sup>5</sup>
- By grade 6 in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), 18% of students reached the "approaching competency" performance level on the NST Reading Competency test in 2010-2011.<sup>6</sup>
- On the 2016 Palau English Reading Assessment (PERA), grade 3 students scored an average of 34.5 out of 100 at the beginning of the school year and 58.3 out of 100 by the end.<sup>7</sup>

## Influencing Factors in the Home

### Outside & Home Learning

Support from students' families in the home learning environment and time spent learning outside of school can help to close the school readiness gap in the early years. Parental attitudes towards reading, the number of books at home, and types of early literacy activities can all have an impact. When students spend more time learning outside of school, including at home and in community learning spaces, they receive increased support and practice, which aids in proficiency.<sup>8</sup>

### Socioeconomic Status

Twenty-two percent of children who have lived in poverty experience lower literacy rates and do not graduate from high school. If children from low-income families are reading on grade level by the end of grade 3, they are more likely to succeed academically and graduate.<sup>9</sup>

## Influencing Factors in the School

### Quality Instruction

The quality of instruction can have positive or negative effects on student achievement outcomes. Professional development can increase educators' knowledge and awareness of the effects of early literacy achievement and can help them to focus instruction on the literacy needs of the students.<sup>10</sup>

### English Language Student Support

English Learner (EL) students tend to perform lower than non-EL students on reading assessments. By developing reading materials that fit the needs of the students, teachers can help their students achieve a higher literacy level.<sup>11</sup>

### Summer Learning

Students who attend high-quality summer programs in early childhood tend to perform better than peers who do not. Loss of summer learning can widen the achievement gap over the years until it is almost insurmountable.<sup>12</sup>

### Early Learning Programs

Children who attend a high-quality preschool program at the age of four are nine percent more likely to be school-ready than others due to acquiring early math and reading skills as well as positive learning-related behaviors.<sup>13</sup>

### Attendance & Attention

Students who display poor attention are more likely to experience literacy problems in grade 3. Students who are absent more than 10 percent of the time are less likely to be promoted to the next grade and receive lower scores on assessments.<sup>14</sup>



Higher Levels of Reading & Writing Comprehension

School Achievement Stays on Track

Higher Rates of High School Graduation

Higher Rates of College Enrollment

Future Success in Career & Higher Income

## Potential Outcomes for Students Who Achieve High Literacy Levels by Grade 3<sup>15</sup>

## Data Sources



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