

**SEPTEMBER IS**

**BASIC EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY  
MONTH**





## Supporting education

More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

[Learn more >](#)

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes>

BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION  
FOR FAMILY LITERACY

LITERACY

LANGUAGE

HEALTHCARE

INCOME

CONCLUSION

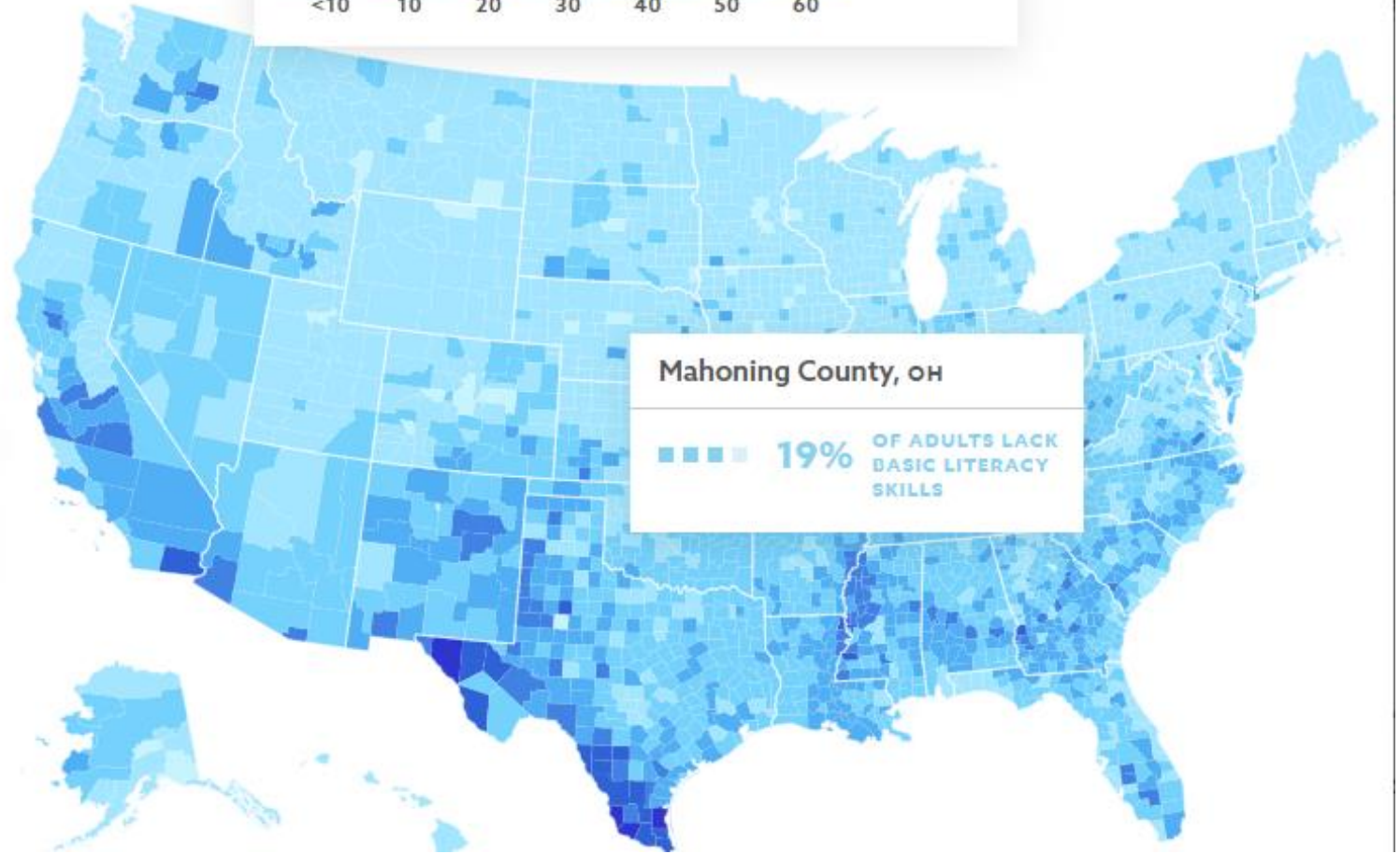
**Dive into the data.**

The counties highlighted here face the greatest socioeconomic hurdles. They also intersect with predominantly Black/African American or Hispanic/Latinx communities. Unjust disadvantages in wealth, education and healthcare can negatively impact literacy in these communities.

[Use our map tool to see how literacy](#)

PIAAC Literacy Scores

<10 10 20 30 40 50 60



Mahoning County, OH

19% OF ADULTS LACK BASIC LITERACY SKILLS





GALLUP®

September 8, 2020

## Assessing the Economic Gains of Eradicating Illiteracy Nationally and Regionally in the United States

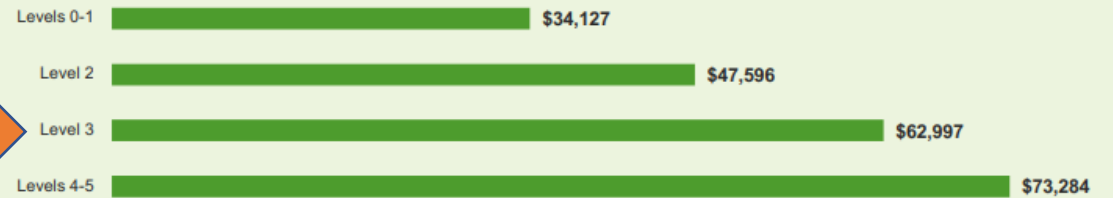
JONATHAN ROTHWELL, PH.D.

Principal Economist, Gallup  
Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program

### Mean Income in 2017 by Level of Literacy (2020 USD)

Source: 2012-2017 PIAAC U.S. State and County Estimates for Population; 2017 PIAAC for Income

■ Mean annual income, 2020 USD



Forbes

EDITORS' PICK | Sep 9, 2020, 07:14am EDT | 37,516 views

## Low Literacy Levels Among U.S. Adults Could Be Costing The Economy \$2.2 Trillion A Year



**Michael T. Nietzel** Senior Contributor ©  
Education

*I am a former university president who writes about higher education.*

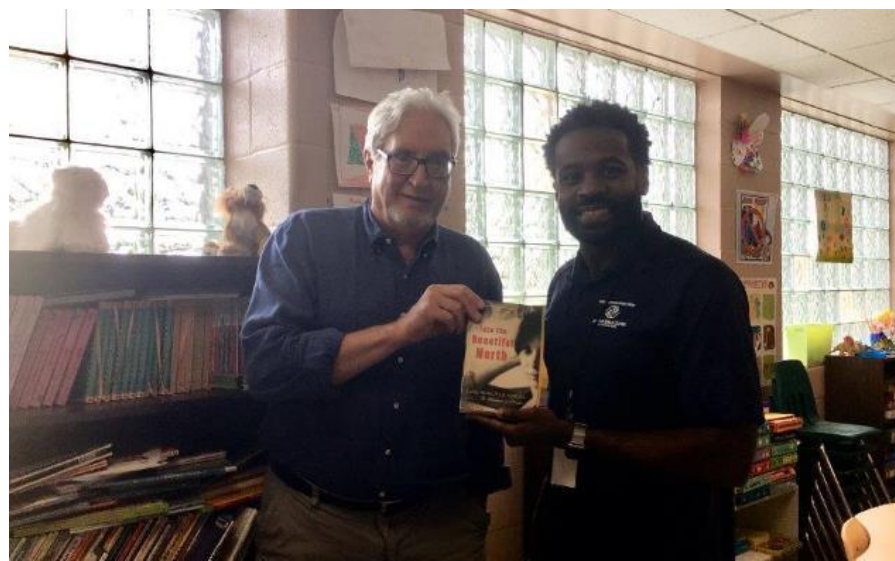
“ . . . low literacy prevents millions of Americans from fully participating in our society and our economy as parents, workers and citizens . . . It lies at the core of multigenerational cycles of poverty, poor health, and low educational attainment, contributing to the enormous equity gap that exists in our country.”

# Rotary International Causes





Support the  
Youngstown  
Rotary Little  
Free Library  
Project







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**MARLEY DIAS**, Library Card Sign-Up Month Honorary Chair

September is  
**LIBRARY CARD  
SIGN-UP MONTH!**

"A library card provides opportunity for discovery and access to a rich and diverse world. It empowers you to make change and experience new stories."



Thank you!

Aimee Fifarek

Director and CEO

