

Welcome to the
26th Annual Montag Lecture

***Literacy as a Human Right:
Our Collective Moon Shot***



Dr. Tracy White Weeden

Made possible by the generosity of Tony and Jackie Montag and the Montag family.

A photograph of three women in a classroom. On the left, a Black woman in a blue blazer smiles. In the center, a young Black girl in an orange shirt looks to the right. On the right, a white woman with curly hair in a white V-neck shirt smiles. They are in front of a green chalkboard with colorful markers hanging above it.

Creating a New Social Contract in Service to Your Learning Community

Dr. Tracy White Weeden

President & CEO, Neuhaus Education Center



What is your why?

This is
personal!



Neuhaus Education Center



Family Support

Support for families
with struggling readers



Adult Learners

Literacy classes for
adult learners



Educators

Professional
development and
certification pathways
aligned with the
Science of Reading





Deer in the Headlights!

The Prophetic City

By 2050, all of America will look like Houston does today...

It is a safe statement to make that if Houston's Latino and Black young people are unprepared to succeed in the global knowledge economy of the 21st century, it is difficult, if not impossible to envision a prosperous vision for Houston..."



Photo Credit: Mario Figueroa

Dr. Stephen Klineberg. *Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America*. United Way of Greater Houston, August 12, 2020.

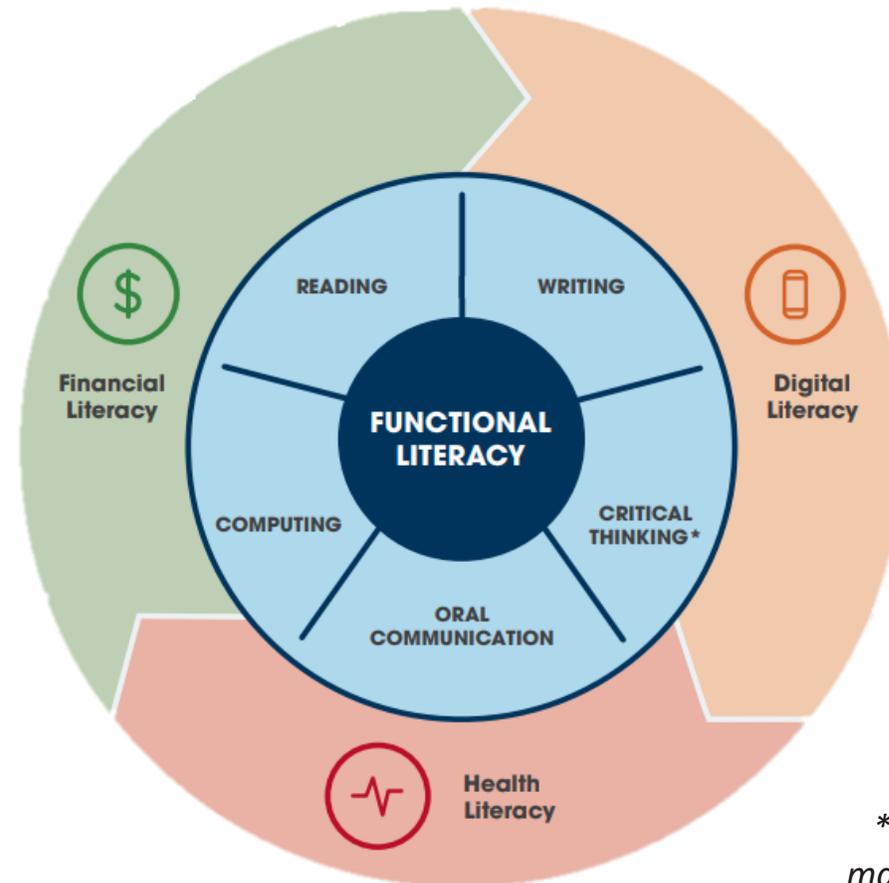
This is a Knowledge Economy *and* Information Age



AI

What Is Functional Literacy?

Functional literacy includes reading, writing, computing, critical thinking and communicating orally at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family, and across society.¹



** Refers to the ability to make decision, synthesize information, and solve problems.*

¹ Vágvölgyi, R., Coldea, A., Dresler, T., Schrader, J., & Nuerk, C. (2015). A Review about Functional Illiteracy: Definition, Cognitive, Linguistic, and Numerical Aspects. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01617>

It is estimated that **low literacy and unemployment costs the U.S. \$255 billion a year from lost workforce productivity, crime, and loss of tax revenue.** ¹

Additionally, it is estimated between **\$106-\$238 billion in healthcare costs a year are linked to low health literacy skills.** ²

¹ "Presidential Survey Info," National Coalition for Literacy, 2016
<https://national-coalition-literacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-01_PresidentialSurvey_Info.pdf>.

² Vernon, J.A., et al., Low health literacy: Implications for National Health Policy, (Washington, DC: Department of Health Policy, School of Public Health and Health Services, The George Washington University, 2007) <https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs_policy_facpubs>.



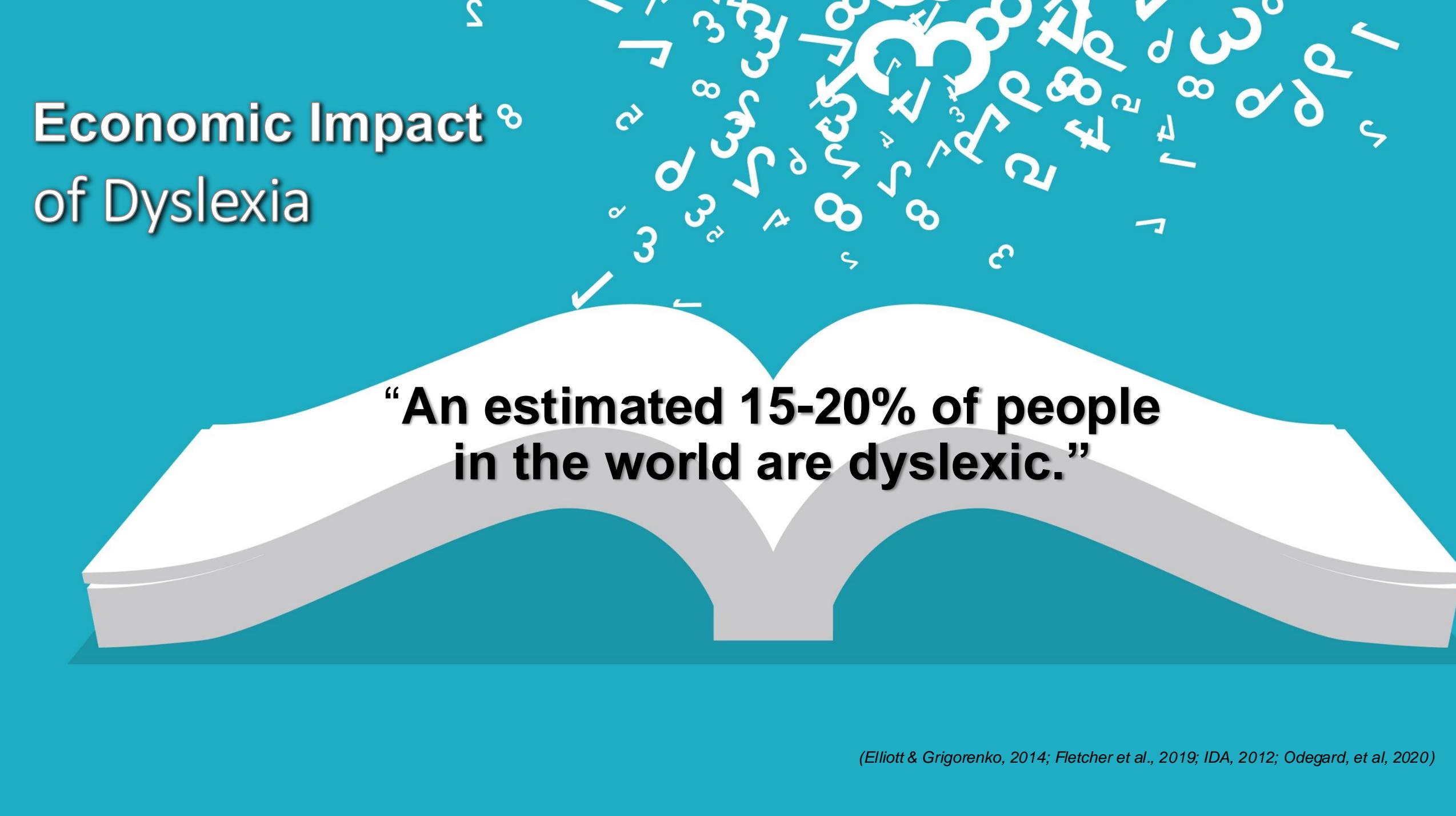
Low Literacy Rates Impact the **Economy**

If all adults in the U.S. were functioning at the equivalence of a 6th grade reading level, the national economic benefit is estimated to be:

\$2.2 Trillion Annually



Economic Impact of Dyslexia



**“An estimated 15-20% of people
in the world are dyslexic.”**

The Economic Impact of Dyslexia White Paper

“Neglecting dyslexic learning has a huge financial cost to society.

Dyslexia will cost the State of California **\$12 billion this year.**”



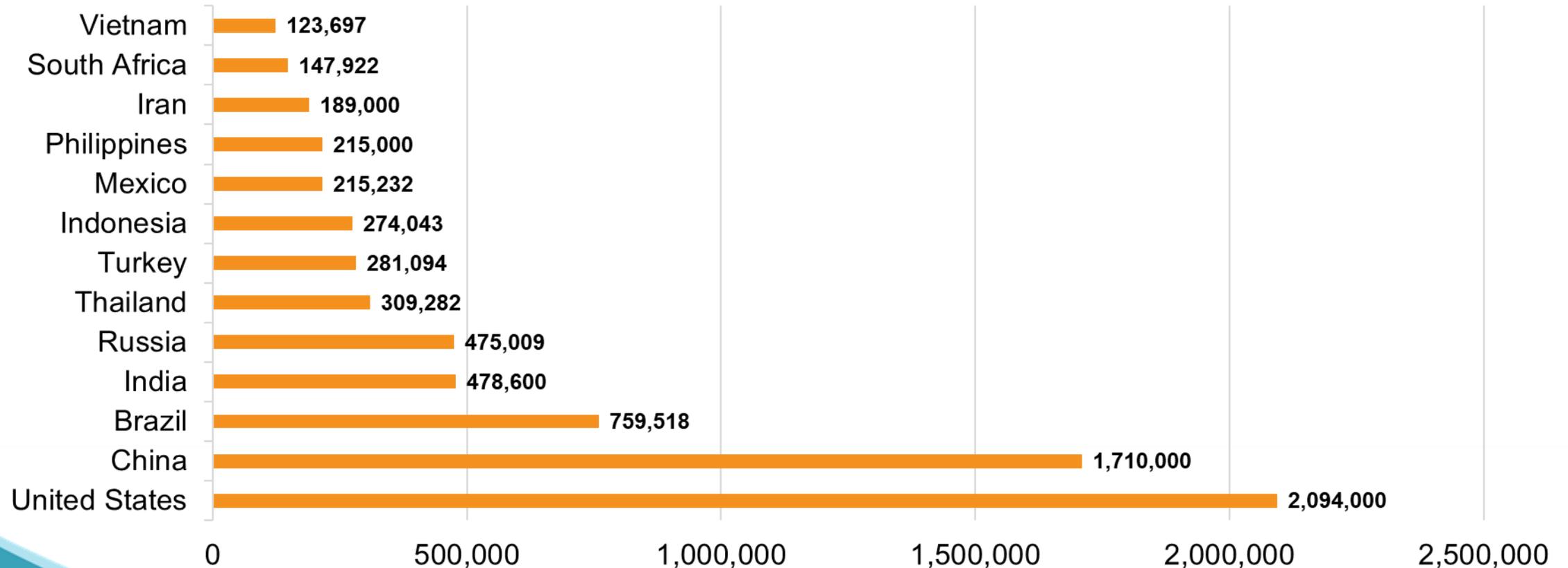
(Boston Consulting Group, 2020)

The First Step Act

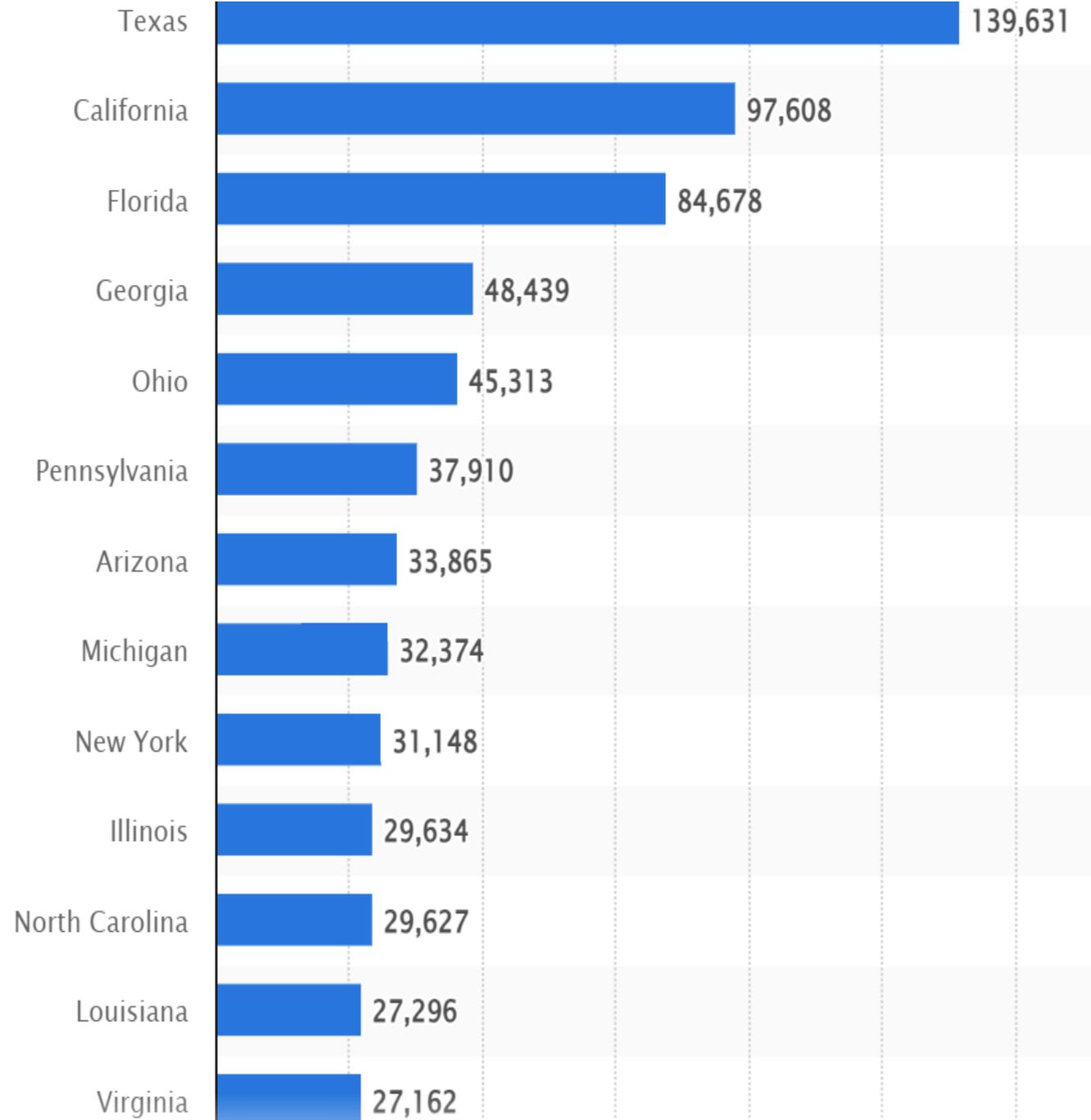
The **First Step Act** includes provisions with the intent of screening inmates for dyslexia and providing the supports needed by those who have dyslexia to earn a GED.



Statista Report - Countries with the largest number of prisoners as of July 2021



Statista Report – Incarceration by State



Counting the Cost of Illiteracy

- 85% of those in the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate
- Without help, the chance of returning is around 70%
- When literacy help is provided, their chance of returning to the system decreases to 16%
- This costs each taxpayer approximately \$25,000 per year per inmate and is nearly double that amount for juvenile offender

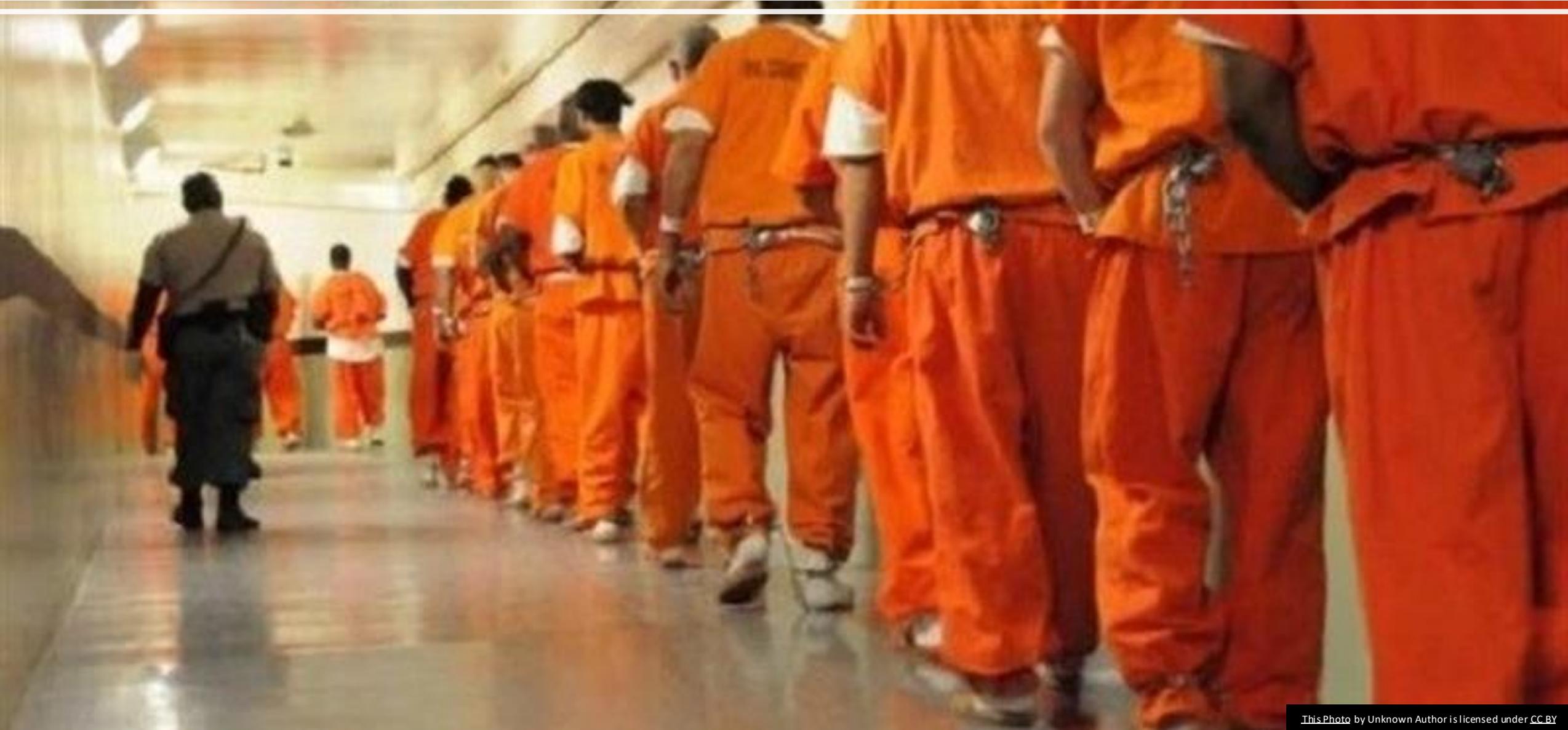
"The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure."

Source: <https://www.begintoread.org>

**Average Per
Pupil
Spending:
\$14,347**



Average Per Prisoner Spending: \$40,000



The
Educational
Contract
Dr. Sharon
Washington

- “All schools have an unwritten, unspoken, but agreed upon social contract, or set of expectations for parents and for the school. But in poor schools with marginalized populations, no one seems to be aware of it. What’s more, in these schools, the expectations of the “contract” are not shared among the different parties in the “contract.”
- “When schools are held accountable to students (instead of to test scores), education is made valuable to the student. No teacher should help a student cheat on a test, rather than ensure the student knows the information.

A group of people in business attire are shaking hands in a circle, symbolizing agreement and partnership. The background is blurred with warm, bokeh lights.

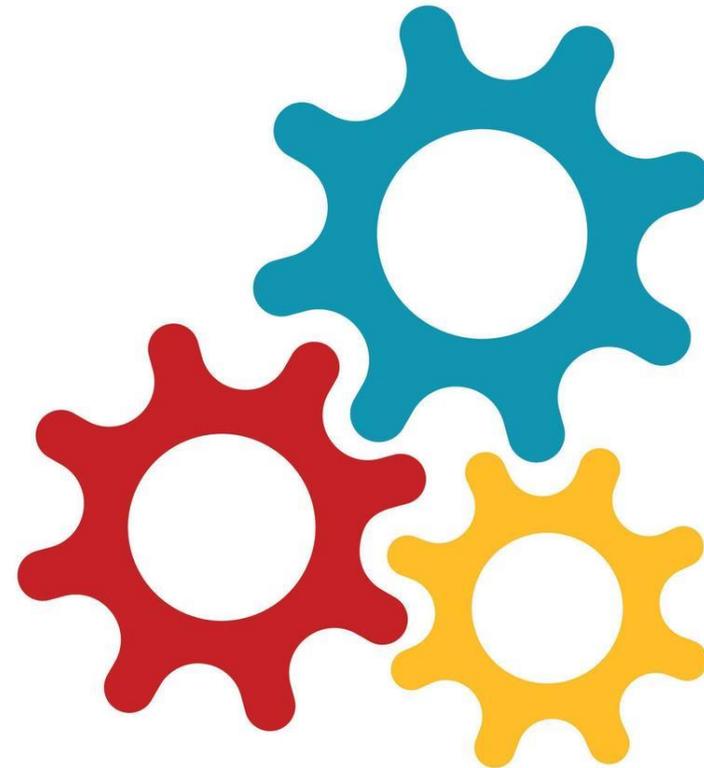
Is Your Word Your Bond?

- How can your system move beyond **compulsory attendance** to a compelling **new social contract with parents** to produce **skilled readers**?
- Earn the **trust of parents as partners**, while accelerating **sustainable change**.
- Position **literacy** as a **human right**, and a crucial **form of exchange** in a **knowledge economy** through **evidence-based best practices**.

It is by design...

“Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.”

- American engineer, W. Edwards Deming





What are the

5 Stages of Grief



DENIAL

Struggling to Believe



ANGER

Raging Against Fate



BARGAINING

Seeking Impossible Solutions



DEPRESSION

Overwhelming Sadness



ACCEPTANCE

Beginning to Find Peace





Helen Arnold CLC

**Helen Arnold CLC &
Neuhaus Education Center:
An Impactful Partnership**



This is OUR WHY!!!

Helen Arnold
CLC, Ohio

Priority status due to state test scores

Neuhaus Professional Development

- 40 hours of training prior to school year
- Monthly coaching
- Email support
- Peer support
- New staff training

Ohio State Test Results

When We Know Better, We Can Do Better

	2019	2023
Limited	76.3%	34.3%
Basic	13.2%	25.3%
Proficient	10.5%	19.2%
Accomplished	0%	15.2%
Advanced	0%	6.1%

Parent Buy-In

- Parent Education & Involvement Literacy Online for Parents during COVID and in person since 2021.
- Parent visits to school for parent informational meetings to learn how to work with their children at home



Helen Arnold Elementary - Ohio

In pushing 'science of reading,' Gov. DeWine touts Helen Arnold bookworms in Akron

By Jennifer Pignolet

Akron Beacon Journal

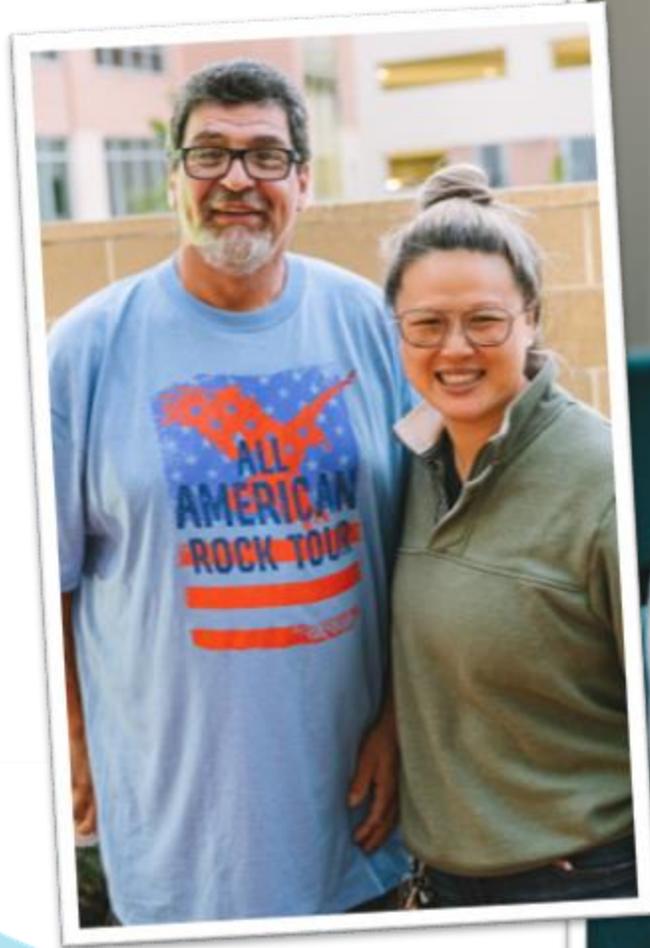


Principal LaMonica Davis talks with First lady Fran DeWine and Gov. Mike DeWine as they tour Helen Arnold CLC

Credit: Mike Cardew, Akron Beacon Journal



Literacy is a Generational Blessing!



Qualitative Results?

95% of student daily attendance

75% decrease in office referrals

85% increase in attendance at Parent Programs

“The Honesty Gap”

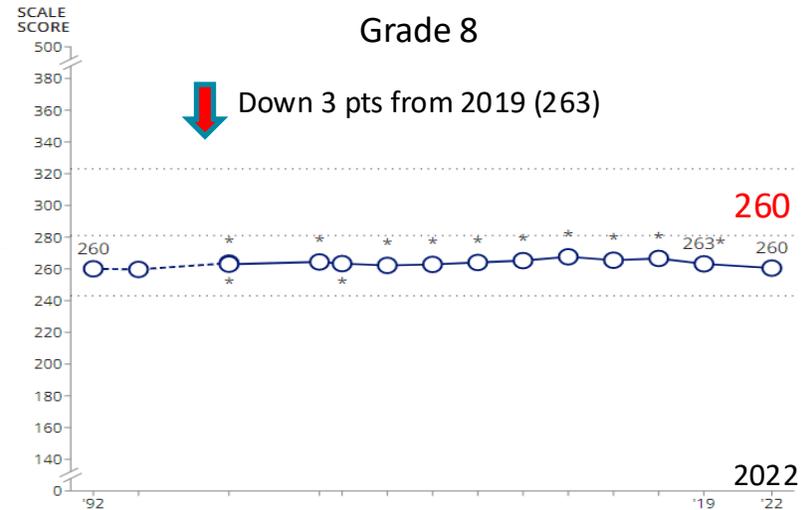
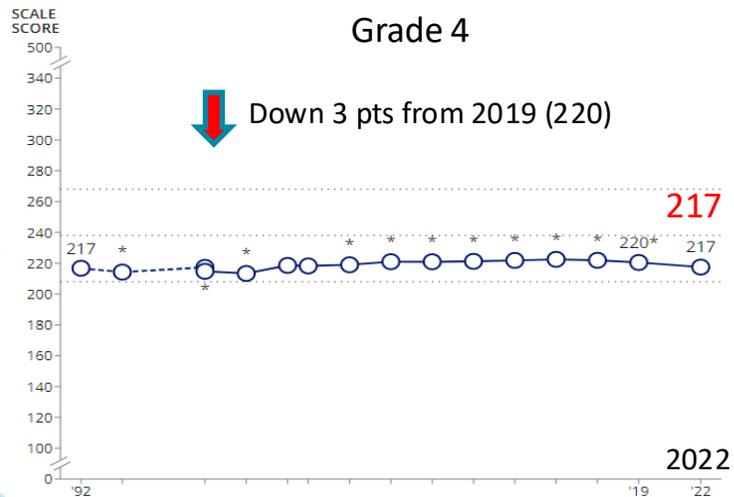
NAEP Reading Average Scores for the Nation (public) Grades 4 and 8 Comparing 2019-2022

Cut Scores: Grade 4	
NAEP Advanced	268
NAEP Proficient	238
NAEP Basic	208



Cut Scores: Grade 8	
NAEP Advanced	323
NAEP Proficient	281
NAEP Basic	243

The average reading score for fourth-grade students in 2022 was 3 points lower compared to 2019, the previous assessment year. In 2022, the average reading score for eighth-grade students was 3 points lower than 2019, the previous assessment year.



Reading Proficiency

A NATIONAL CONTEXT: FOURTH GRADE

2022 4th Grade NAEP Reading Scores for National Public Schools by Disability Status, NSLP Eligible, and Race and Ethnicity							
Group	Scale Score	Below Basic	At Basic	Total at Basic - Below Basic	Proficient	Advanced	Total Proficient - Advanced
All Students	217	37%	29%	66%	24%	9%	33%
With Disabilities	183	70%	19%	89%	9%	2%	11%
NSLP Eligible	203	52%	28%	80%	16%	3%	19%
White	227	27%	31%	58%	30%	11%	41%
Black	199	56%	27%	83%	14%	3%	17%
Hispanic	205	50%	29%	79%	17%	4%	21%
Am Indian/Alaskan Native	197	57%	25%	82%	14%	3%	17%
Asian/Pacific Islander	239	19%	25%	44%	33%	5%	38%

Source: <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading/nation/scores>

Reading Proficiency

A NATIONAL DECLINE

Average Reading Score Decline of Age 9 Students from 2020 to 2022			
Group	Scale Score 2020	Scale Score 2022	Score Change
All Students	220	215	↓ 5
With Disabilities	187	180	↓ 7
NSLP Eligible	207	200	↓ 7
White	228	223	↓ 5
Black	205	199	↓ 6
Hispanic	210	204	↓ 6

NAEP Long-Term Trend Assessment Results: Reading and Mathematics (nationsreportcard.gov)

Reading Proficiency

A NATIONAL CONTEXT: EIGHTH GRADE

2022 8th Grade NAEP Reading Scores for National Public Schools by Disability Status, NSLP Eligible, and Race and Ethnicity							
Group	Scale Score	Below Basic	At Basic	Total at Basic-Below Basic	Proficient	Advanced	Total Proficient - Advanced
All Students	260	30%	39%	70%	27%	4%	31%
With Disabilities	229	64%	27%	91%	9%	1%	10%
NSLP Eligible	248	42%	39%	81%	17%	1%	18%
White	268	22%	40%	62%	33%	5%	38%
Black	244	47%	37%	84%	15%	1%	16%
Hispanic	251	39%	40%	79%	19%	2%	21%
Am Indian/Alaskan Native	246	45%	37%	82%	17%	2%	19%
Asian/Pacific Islander	281	15%	31%	46%	43%	12%	55%

Source: <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading/nation/scores>

Writing Proficiency

2011 Eighth Grade (National)

2011 8th Grade NAEP Writing Scores for National Public Schools by Disability Status, NSLP Eligible, and Race and Ethnicity							
Group	Scale Score	Below Basic	At Basic	Total at Basic-Below Basic	Proficient	Advanced	Total Proficient - Advanced
All Students	150	20%	54%	74%	24%	3%	27%
With Disabilities	113	60%	36%	96%	4%	0%	4%
NSLP Eligible	134	32%	56%	88%	11%	1%	12%
White	158	13%	54%	67%	30%	4%	33%
Black	132	35%	54%	89%	10%	1%	11%
Hispanic	136	31%	55%	86%	13%	1%	13%
Am Indian/Alaskan Native	145	22%	58%	80%	20%	1%	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	163	12%	45%	57%	35%	7%	55%

Georgia NAEP Data

Reading Scores Comparison 2022

State: *Georgia*

Fourth Grade

Group	2022 Scale Score	Comparison Group	Scale Score	Score Difference
White	229	Black	202	↓ 27
		Hispanic	207	↓ 22
		Asian/Pac. Islander	241	↑ 12
		Am Indian/Alaska Native	0	0
NSLP Not Eligible	232	NSLP Eligible	204	↓ 28
Without Disabilities	221	With Disabilities	184	↓ 37

Eighth Grade

Group	2022 Scale Score	Comparison Group	Scale Score	Score Difference
White	272	Black	247	↓ 25
		Hispanic	254	↓ 18
		Asian/Pac. Islander	297	↑ 25
		Am Indian/Alaska Native	0	0
NSLP Not Eligible	272	NSLP Eligible	250	↓ 22
Without Disabilities	265	With Disabilities	233	↓ 32

Seizing the Window of Opportunity

PreK-1st Grade Prevention

Universal Screening
High Quality Tier I Instruction
Progress Monitoring
MTSS Instruction to Match Needs

Fewer Negative Consequences
Less Early Reading Failure
More Cost Effective

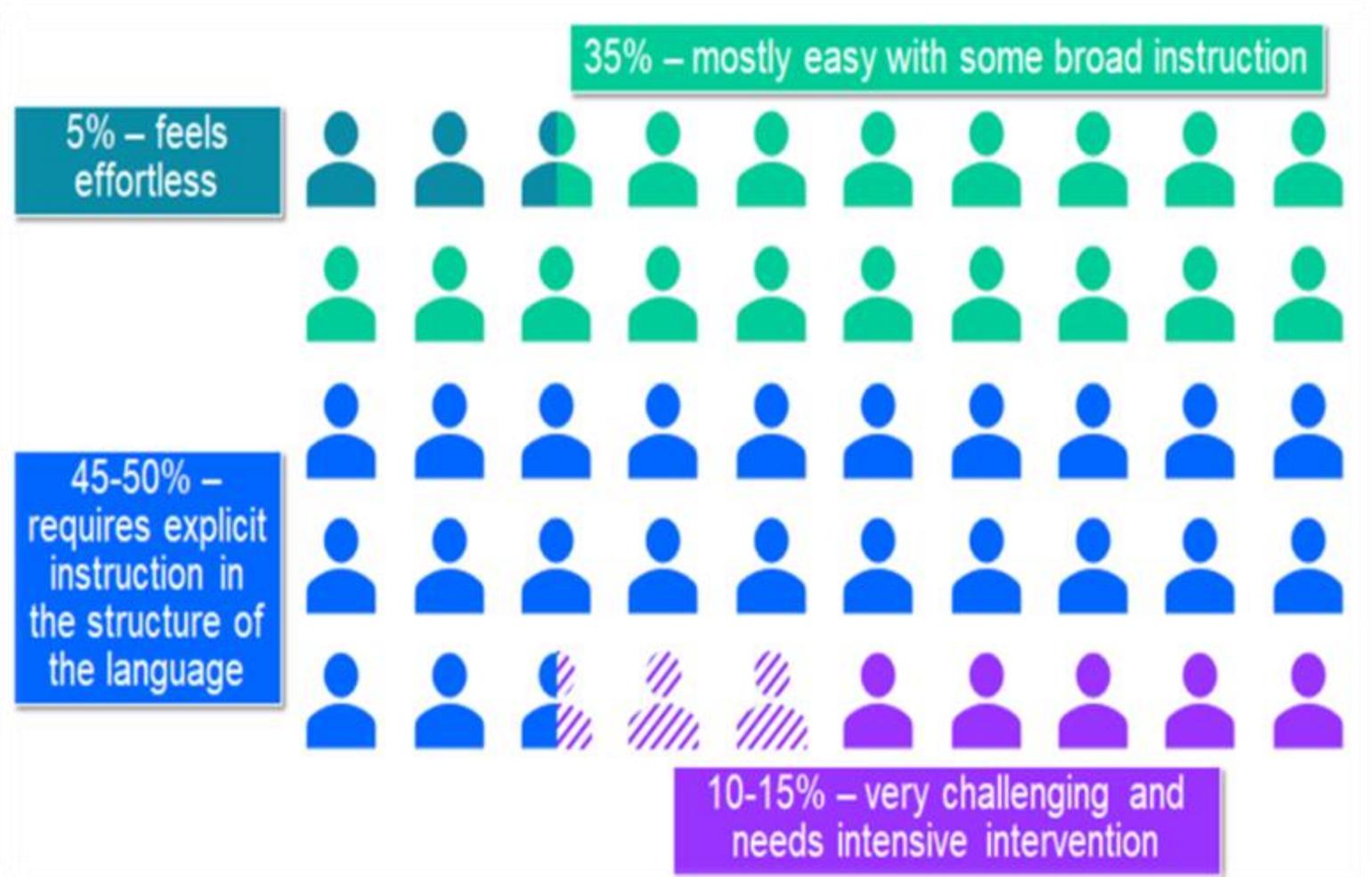
2nd-3rd Grade Diagnosis & Treatment

Assessment & Evaluation
Special Education
Intensive Intervention

More Negative Consequences
Delayed Reading Success
Less Cost-Effective

Do you have the determination to cultivate literacy outcomes intentionally on your watch?

Learning to Read



Hasbrouck, 2020





The seeds of language matter!

- *“We should not allow the prestige of the dialect impact our views of the people who speak them. How can we decide not to respect the scholar because we do not respect the dialect...”*

- Dr. Julie Washington
Interview on January 19, 2021

Context Matters...

Environmental

- Language variety
- Home environment

Instructional

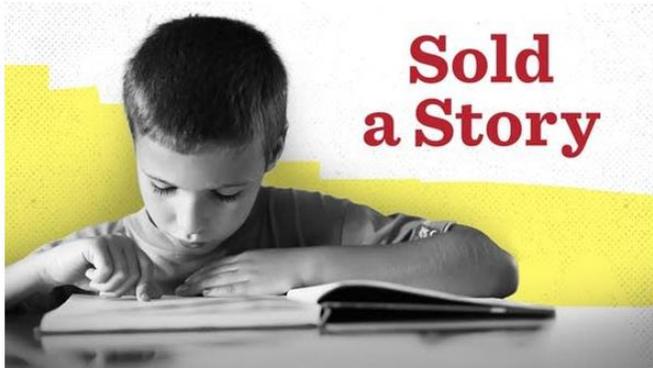
- Inadequate instruction
- Inadequate knowledge on the part of university instructors
apprenticing pre-service teachers
- Inequities when identifying students with dyslexia or other learning
difficulties

Binks-Cantrell et al., 2012; Joshi & Aaron, 2008; Moats, 2004; Washington & Seidenberg, 2021

Non-Structured Literacy Approaches

APMreports.

Sold a Story: How Teaching Kids to Read Went So Wrong



There's an idea about how children learn to read that's held sway in schools for more than a generation — even though it was proven wrong by cognitive scientists decades ago. Teaching methods based on this idea can make it harder for children to learn how to read.

In our new podcast, host Emily Hanford and reporter Christopher Peak investigate the influential authors who promote this idea and the company that sells their work. It's an exposé of how educators came to believe in something that isn't true and are now reckoning with the consequences — children harmed, money wasted, an education system upended.

Guided Reading (Burkins & Croft, 2010)

Reader's Workshop (Calkins, 2000)

Balanced Literacy, Four Blocs Literacy (Cunningham, Hall, & Sigmon, 1999)

Reading Recovery (Clay, 1994)

Leveled Literacy Intervention (Fountas & Pinnell, 2009)

The stakes are incredibly high!

Admiring the problem is unacceptable.

Compulsory attendance without the commitment offered through a new social contract? Not on our watch!

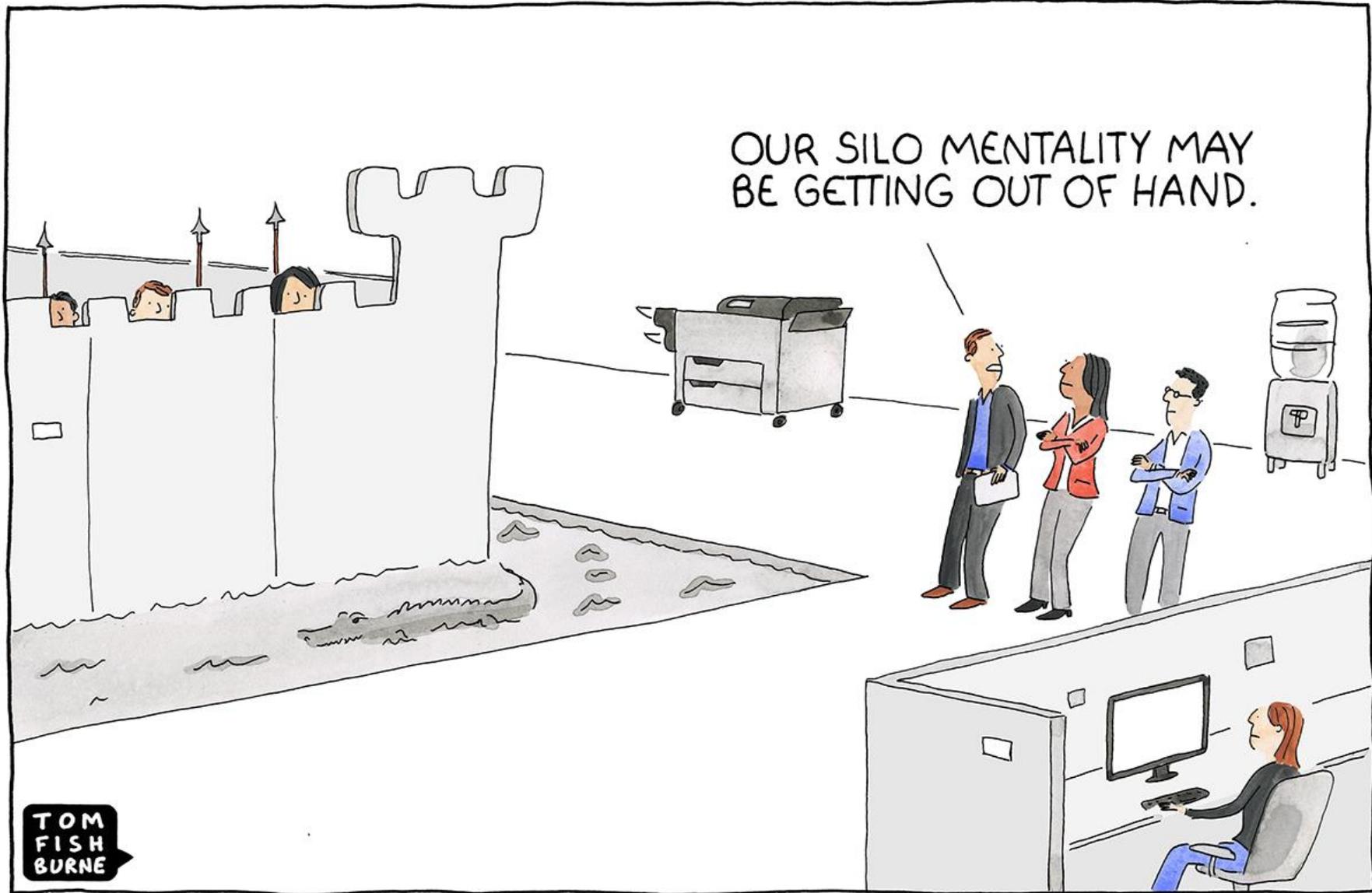


“The source of wealth for Houston in the 21st century will have to do with attracting the best and brightest people in America, working on the cutting edge of knowledge.”

The resource of the knowledge economy is housed between the ears of the best and brightest people in America who can live anywhere.”

- Dr. Stephen Klineberg





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Overcoming the Silo Effect...

Ensuring the Law of the Harvest Works for Your System



Time



Talent

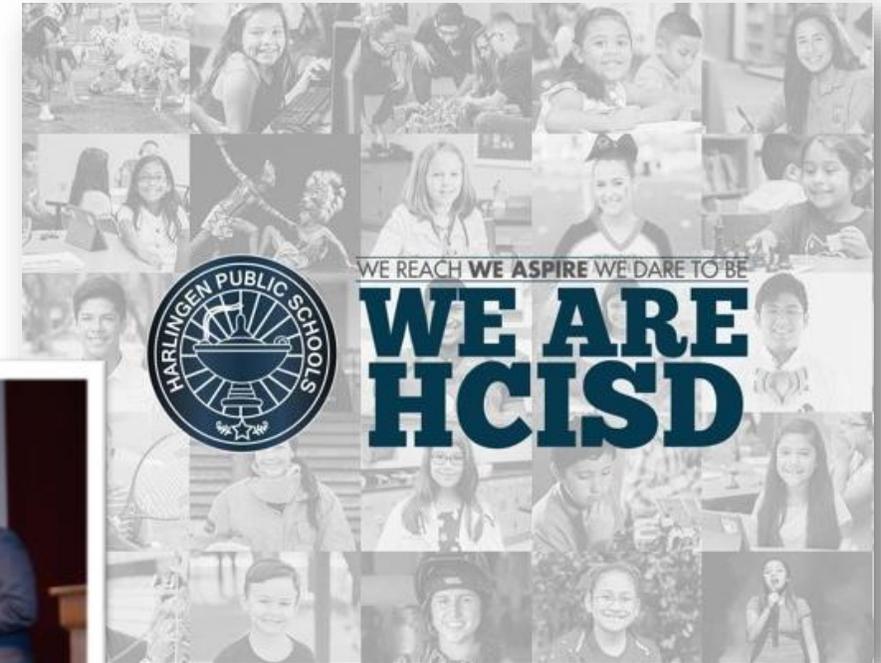


Funding

HCISD created a Cross Functional Design Team, then...

Implementation of Neuhaus Professional Learning

- Plan the work and work the plan
- Stay true to the work of early literacy
- Prepare the system
- Remove barriers
- Kick it off...don't wait for perfection
- Implementation, Fidelity & Coaching



Design Team



Student Achievement Through Staff Development

Training Components	Knowledge % of teachers who understand concept	Skill Implementation % of teachers who apply concept	Classroom Application % of teachers who adopt concept
Theory: presenter explains concept	10%	5%	0%
Plus Demonstration: presenter models the concept	30%	20%	0%
Plus Practice: participants practice the concept during the training	60%	60%	5%
Plus Peer Coaching: participants receive ongoing feedback about their practices of the concept in a real setting	95%	95%	95%

Data Driven Culture Set the Stage for Improvement

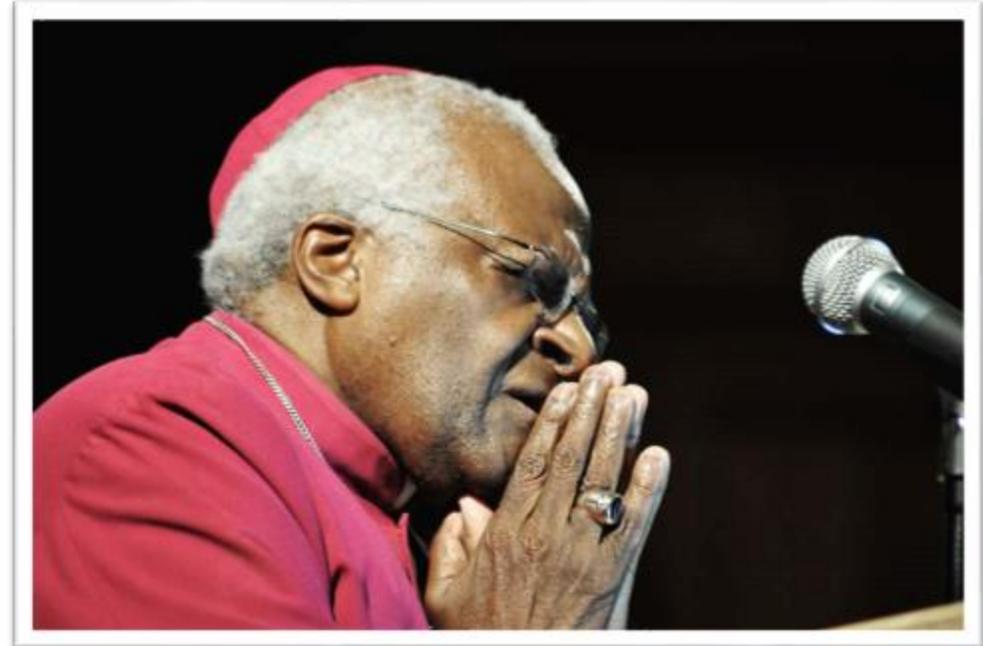
Texas Public Information Resource Reports on Overall % Kindergarten Readiness

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
HCISD	45.6%	63.7%	71.4%	84.0%	90.7%	90.2%
State	58.0%	61.5%	61.2%	50.1%	56.5%	56.6%
Difference	-12.4%	2.2%	10.2%	33.9%	34.2%	33.6%

Source: TPEIR; <https://www.texaseducationinfo.org>

“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in.”

Desmond Tutu



Akron Public Schools
Principal of the Year:

LaMonica Davis

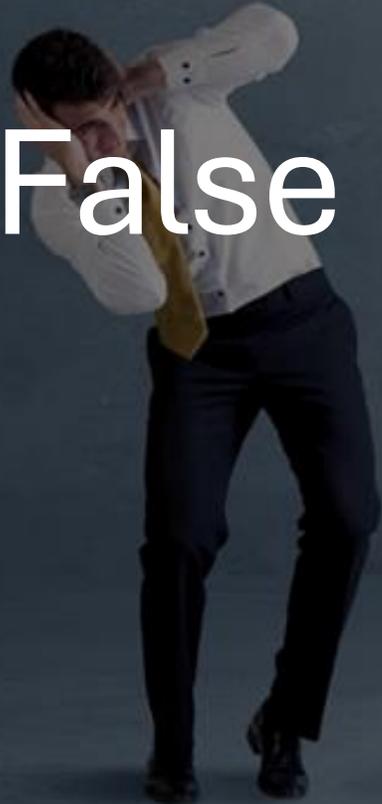


In remembrance of beloved
Akron Public Schools Teacher,



Denise Williams

F.E.A.R. is
False Evidence Appearing Real





Have F.A.I.T.H.!
Focused Adults
Intervening
Tenaciously (with)
Hope

**Be The
Light...**





Neuhaus Education Center



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Engage with us!