

Humboldt Literacy Project

537 G Street, Suite 202A
Eureka, CA 95501
707-445-3655

922 N Street
Fortuna, CA 95540
707-725-0655

Literacy Facts

National

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL):

14% or 30 million adult Americans are functioning at the Below Basic literacy skill level. This group of people can only perform the most simple and concrete literacy tasks, such as signing a form. They are likely to be living in poverty, unable to participate in their children's education.

29% or 63 million are functioning at the Basic level. They have some literacy skills and can perform simple everyday tasks like finding a program in a *TV Guide* or comparing the prices of two tickets to a sporting event. They are unlikely to have the skills required to be gainfully employed or economically self-sufficient. They will struggle in an increasingly complex and information driven society, and will be unprepared to perform the jobs of the future.

44% or 95 million adults are functioning at the Intermediate level. This group of people can do moderately challenging tasks such as calculate the cost of an order from an office supply catalog, identify a specific location on a map, and consult a reference book to determine which foods contain a certain vitamin. This is the average reading level of American adults and includes many college graduates.

13% or 28 million are functioning at the Proficient level. They can perform more complex and challenging literacy activities like interpreting a table about blood pressure, age and physical activity or comparing two editorial viewpoints.

It is estimated that 10.5 million of the 93 million Americans who are functioning at the Basic and Below Basic literacy levels live in California.

Humboldt County

If we apply the percentages shown above to the 99,000 adults in our county

- 13,800 adults are functioning at the Below Basic level
- 28,700 adults are functioning at the Basic literacy level
- 43,600 adults are functioning at the Intermediate literacy level
- 12,900 adults are functioning at the proficient literacy level

Humboldt Literacy Project

Our Goal is a Literate Community

Expanding the power of literacy in an individual's life provides greater opportunities for choice in education, work, recreation, and citizenship. We acknowledge the greatness and adaptability of the human mind. We subscribe, without qualification, to the following beliefs:

- ◆ **We believe all adults can learn.**
Humboldt Literacy Project recognizes there are barriers to learning and we will help to remove barriers whenever possible. We may not be the appropriate source for all potential learners; we will make referrals to other organizations when necessary.
- ◆ **We believe all individuals have the right to privacy and confidentiality.**
When communicating about the organization, Humboldt Literacy Project will honor an individual's right to privacy and confidentiality, promoting loyalty, cooperation, and trust.
- ◆ **We believe that a non-judgmental environment promotes mutual respect, trust, openness, comfort, and hope.**
HLP promotes open-mindedness. Recognizing that it is not the right of a tutor to judge the lifestyle of the learner or the right of the learner to judge the motives of the tutor, we will work to create an environment of mutual respect and trust.
- ◆ **We believe tutoring should be learner-centered.**
HLP recognizes learner-centered tutoring, using the learner's life experiences, interests, needs, and goals to guide the selection of materials and techniques.
- ◆ **We believe in conducting ourselves with openness and integrity.**
HLP relies on the trust and support of the community, so we conduct ourselves with integrity and openness.
- ◆ **We believe in providing the highest quality service.**
HLP is entrusted with the greatest responsibility of expanding a learner's mind. To provide any less than high quality service would be unethical. We must collaborate within the HLP family and with community partners, to provide the highest quality training, access to information, support, and recognition.

Humboldt Literacy Project has three central missions:

To teach adults in Humboldt County the literacy skills they need on the job, at home, and in our community.

To increase public awareness regarding the magnitude and negative effects of illiteracy.

To build public awareness about the social, political, economic and cultural value of literacy.

*Working together Humboldt Literacy Project and the people of Humboldt County
can eliminate illiteracy and build a stronger community.*