

# The Reading Report

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[www.readingassist.org](http://www.readingassist.org) September-October

## READING RESEARCH ALERT:

### ***Kids Count Report Cites Reading Proficiency by Third Grade as Critical Indicator of High School Graduation***

***Reading ASSIST Institute Provides Free Effective Intervention to Partner Schools***

- A study released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation for Kids Count, *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, warns that children who are not proficient readers by the end of Grade 3 are highly at risk of becoming high school dropouts.
- National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) scores indicate that 67% of children nationally-and in Delaware- read at a level “below proficient”-83% for low-income kids.
- “If current trends hold true, 6.6 million low-income children in the birth to age 8 group [nationally] are at increased risk of failing to graduate from high school on time because they won’t be able to meet NAEP’s proficient reading level by the end of third grade.”<sup>1</sup>
- Research shows that students at risk for reading failure require individualized, structured language reading intervention 3-4 days per week to learn how to read.
- Delaware’s talented and dedicated teachers lack the time to provide the intensive instruction required to ensure that all children can read at grade level.
- Reading ASSIST<sup>®</sup> Institute trains volunteer tutors in research-based reading methodologies and places them in Delaware schools to supplement classroom instruction to meet the needs of at-risk students **-at no charge to schools or families.**
- Currently 150 RAI tutors work with 250 students yearly in 41 Delaware elementary schools in a pull-out format. In 2011 they provided 9,723 hours of free intervention!
- RAI’s Volunteer Tutor Program is a low-cost, viable solution to reading failure among K-3 students. RAI’s goal is to expand to meet the needs of ALL struggling young readers in Delaware.

**Reading ASSIST<sup>®</sup> Institute is a Delaware nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the literacy skills of children at risk for reading failure. Since 1989, Reading ASSIST<sup>®</sup> Institute’s Volunteer Tutor Program has brought free research-based, intensive, individualized intervention to struggling readers in grades K-3 in Delaware schools.**

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<sup>1</sup> *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*. Annie E. Casey Foundatio. 2010. [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)