



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Family Learning Institute is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to providing free tutoring for low-income students in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, helping them achieve grade-level reading proficiency in grades 2-5.



INTRODUCTION

In 1999, the Family Learning Institute was founded as a volunteer-based nonprofit agency dedicated to closing the achievement gap in Washtenaw County.

Established by Ann Arbor Activists Doris Sperling and Lafiest Galimore, the Family Learning Institute has a staff of professional educators and over 150 volunteers who work with economically challenged elementary school children struggling to attain grade-level proficiency in reading and writing

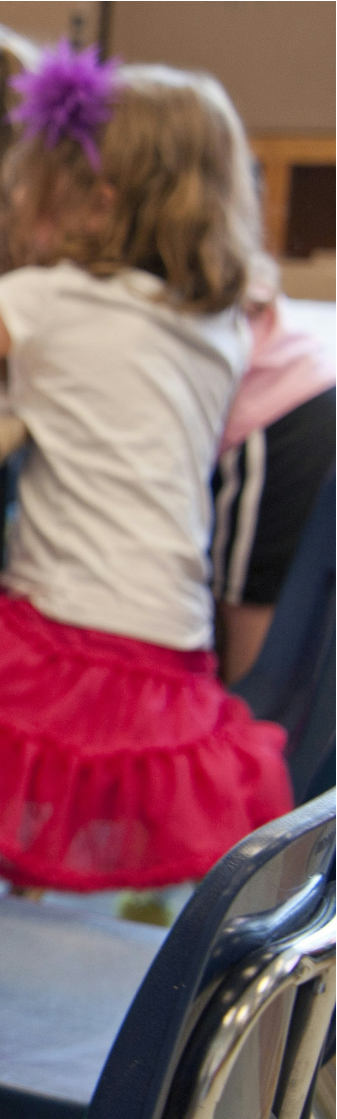


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MISSION STATEMENT

Through collaboration with local schools and community partners, and the implementation of innovative programs, the Family Learning Institute engages children from economically challenged households to support their success in school and beyond. FLI believes that all students, regardless of life circumstances, deserve a chance to forge the skills they need to build the lives they dream.

FLI IMPACT

TWENTY THREE YEARS AND COUNTING

Over the 23 years of its existence, the Family Learning Institute has consistently raised the reading level of 80-85% students by one or more grades in a school year. Students, coaches and parents are committed to the process; they often devote more than one year to achieving proficiency at grade level and beyond.

One of our tutors is especially proud of Manuel, who came to us as a fourth grader barely able to do simple addition and subtraction. “He really took off at FLI, not only quickly achieving grade-level proficiency but also becoming the

best math student in his whole class at school. And he went from hating school to being eager to attend. I predict a great academic future for Manuel, thanks largely to the personalized tutoring he got from the Family Learning Institute.”

The children who come to FLI also gain confidence and self-esteem, benefits that lead to continued learning, increased likelihood of high-school graduation, educational ambitions beyond secondary school, and more fulfilling lives.

WHAT WE PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS



- *Individualized lesson plans*
- *Professionally trained adult tutors*
- *A one-to-one mentoring relationship*
- *Follow-up testing*



- *A lending library*
- *A book giveaway program*
- *A Summer program*

INSIGHT INTO THE 2023-2024 M-STEP READING SCORES FOR 3RD GRADERS

Decline from previous years: The 39.6% proficiency rate in 2024 is lower than the 40.9% in 2023, 41.6% 2022, and 42.8% in 2021, indicating a continued trend of declining reading proficiency among third graders.

Pre-pandemic comparison: The 2024 scores are significantly below the 2019 pre-pandemic level, where 45% of third graders scored proficient or higher in reading.

Impact of the pandemic: The pandemic’s disruption to education is believed to be a contributing factor to the declining scores, with students facing learning loss and challenges related to remote learning and other pandemic-related disruptions.

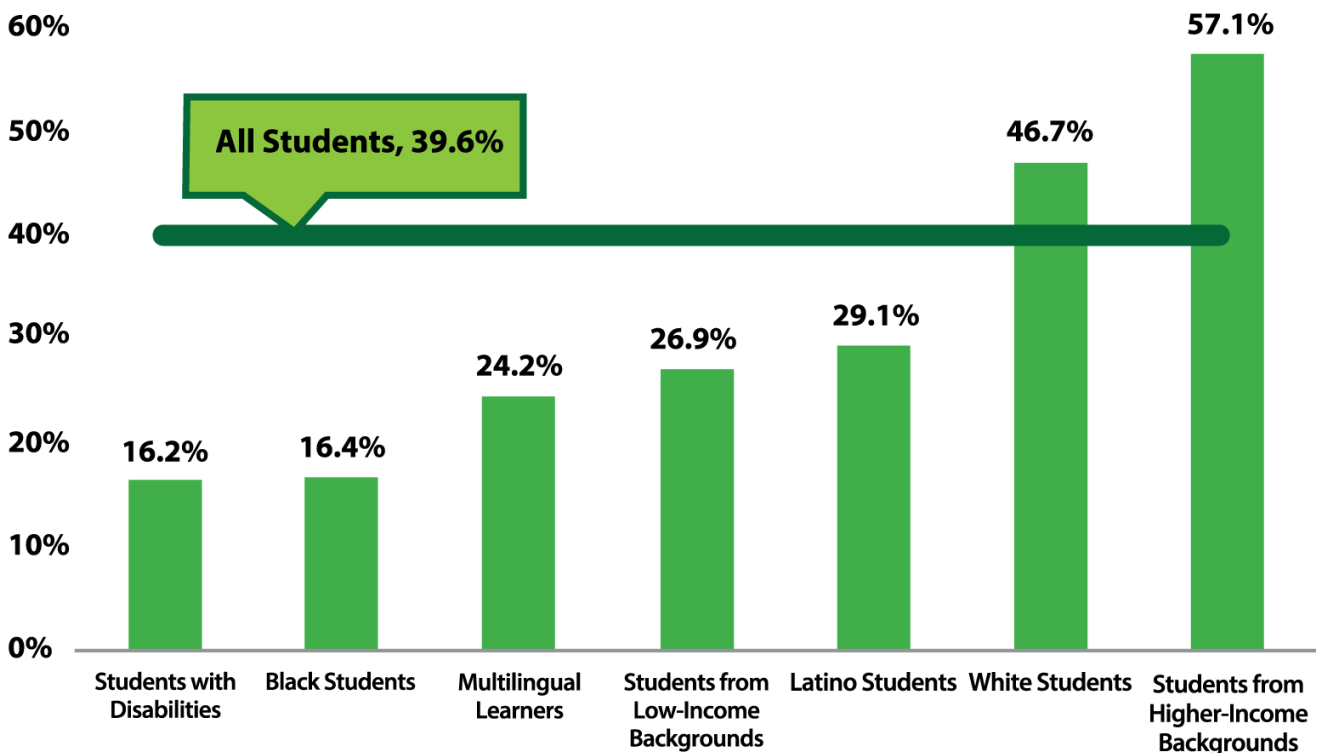
Read by Grade 3 Law: Michigan’s Read by Grade 3 Law requires students to be reading at grade level by the end of third grade, and the declining scores raise

concerns about students’ ability to meet this requirement.

Disparities in performance: The M-STEP results

also highlight disparities in reading proficiency based on factors like socioeconomic status, with economically disadvantaged students showing lower proficiency rates than their middle-class peers.

District-level variations: While statewide scores show a decline, individual school districts have experienced varying levels of performance. For example, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools had a higher percentage of third-grade reading proficiency (55.4%) compared to the statewide average, while Detroit Public Schools Community District had a significantly lower rate (11.7%).





A WORD FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

As the year draws to a close, we want to take a moment to thank you for being part of the Family Learning Institute (“FLI”) community. Your belief in our mission and ongoing support has helped make a lasting difference in the lives of young students throughout Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Since 1999, FLI’s dedicated volunteer tutors have empowered hundreds of students in grades 2–5 to read and write at or above grade level. This year, we’re proud to report that approximately 150 students have benefitted from our personalized programs, which include:

- Professionally trained volunteer tutors (“Coaches”)
- One-on-one coaching and mentoring
- Individualized lesson plans
- Follow-up testing to track progress
- A lending library and book donations for students

- Summer programs to prepare students for middle school and prevent learning loss
- Strategies to address gaps caused by socio-economic challenges and the pandemic

Thanks to supporters like you, these vital services are offered at no cost to families. Together, we are giving students the skills—and the confidence—they need to succeed in school and beyond. One of our students recently shared:

“My coach helps me believe I can read anything. I don’t feel scared of books anymore.”

It’s moments like these that remind us of the real impact you make possible.

From all of us at FLI, thank you for believing in our students, our mission, and the power of literacy. We wish you a joyful and a bright year.

FUTURE OF FAMILY LEARNING INSTITUTE

THE FUTURE'S LOOKING BRIGHT!



YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING LIVES— THANK YOU!

Hello Supporters, We're happy to share that our 2025 Trivia & Silent Auction Fundraiser was a tremendous success! Together, we raised essential funds that are making a direct impact on the lives of our students and families. Because of your support, students are receiving one-on-one reading tutoring and writing support. In partnership with Arbor and Ypsilanti schools, we're helping them build confidence and succeed both in school and in life. Every dollar raised brings us closer to closing the achievement gap and empowering learners in our community.

"My child used to dread reading, but now she looks forward to it. The support she's received has made a world of difference."—

Family Learning Institute's parents thank you for being a part of our mission. Together, we're building a brighter future.

Thank you for believing in our mission and making it possible for young students to grow into confident readers and learners.

Your support is the light that helps guide their path to a brighter future.



FAMILY LEARNING INSTITUTE
THANK YOU!

YOU CAN FIND
US HERE:

WEBSITE

www.familylearninginstitute.org

ADDRESS

1954 S. Industrial Dr.
Suite D
Ann Arbor, Mi 48103

PHONE

T 734.995.6816

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

AND CHANGE THE LIFE OF A CHILD TODAY!

