



# “Why Reading Matters and What to Do about It”

Business Roundtable

# Why Reading Matters

## Business Roundtable

Nationwide by 2020,  
companies will struggle to fill

**5 million jobs**

because of a lack of training and  
education.



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### Acceleration of the Skills Gap

Of 7.2 million jobs lost, **5.6 million (77%)** were workers with a high school diploma or less



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Of the **11.6 million** jobs added over the past six years, **99% (11.5 million)** were for those with education or training beyond high school.

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### Are U.S Students Reading Proficiently?

- **66% of 8<sup>th</sup>** graders **not** reading proficient
- **64% of 4<sup>th</sup>** graders **not** reading proficient

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Students not reading proficiently  
by end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:

**4 times more likely**  
to **drop out** of school.