

## Literacy Statistics in New Mexico

The New Mexico Coalition on Literacy (NMCL) reports that 20% of New Mexicans age 16 and older have literacy skills at level 1, the lowest level on a scale of 1 to 5. 46% of New Mexico's population is at level 2 or below. As a benchmark in practical terms, nearly two-thirds (64%) of all jobs today require literacy skills beyond level 2, while only 12% require skills at level 1 and 24% at level 2, according to a study by the Milken Institute.

**Literacy Level 1:** Trouble locating information in a newspaper article. Can't check the total on a sales receipt.

**20%** of New Mexicans

Statewide, **25% of adults age 21 and over lack a high school diploma** or its equivalent.

Read more: <http://newmexicoliteracy.org/index.php/literacy-facts>

In "Trends in High School Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 1972–2009," the US Department of Education reported that New Mexico was among the lowest-ranking eight states with a **less than 70% high school graduation rate**—at 64.8 percent, it only ranks above Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and South Carolina.

The online magazine 24/7 Wall Street reported in February, 2014 that "there are still significant differences in literacy rates among students across the country. In Massachusetts, just 53% of fourth graders were not proficient readers, the best among all states. In both Mississippi and New Mexico, on the other hand, 79% of kids in fourth grade were not proficient readers, [and are the] **worst in the nation.**"

Read more: States Where Children are Struggling the Most to Read - 24/7 Wall St.

<http://247wallst.com/special-report/2014/02/07/states-where-children-are-struggling-the-most-to-read/#ixzz3GNM5leeQ>

People at **Literacy Level 2** do not qualify for 2/3 of available jobs

**46%** in New Mexico