

Current Chapter Activities

California State University – Organizes a book drive on their campus.

Duquesne University – Sponsors and hosts a creative writing essay contest for high school students.

The College of New Jersey – Volunteers in a pen pal program through the Get SET organization, an after school program in an economically depressed area of downtown Trenton, New Jersey.

University of Michigan – Tutors at Burns Park Elementary.

Texas State University – Established a literacy program aimed at elementary school children.

Universiti Sains – Volunteers with the Salvation Army Community Service Program, a volunteer tutorship program that caters to the educational needs of children by helping them with their studies.

University of Pretoria – Volunteers with the Danville Rooms After School Care Centre, a tutoring project, and UNICA School for Autistic Children, a teacher's assistant project.



Questions?

Contact Golden Key
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NATIONAL RESOURCES

National Institute for Literacy
www.nifl.gov/lincs

America's Literacy Directory
www.literacydirectory.org

ProLiteracy Worldwide
www.proliteracy.org

The National Center for
Family Literacy
www.famlit.org

National Endowment for
Financial Education
www.nefe.org

Thinkfinity -
Verizon Literacy Campus
www.thinkfinity.org

Trivian
[trivani.wordpress.com/2008/
07/13/illiteracy-in-america](http://trivani.wordpress.com/2008/07/13/illiteracy-in-america)

LITERACY

Golden Key International Honour Society



“An individual's ability to read, write, speak, compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in the individual's society.”

- Adopted by Golden Key, August 2007

Why Literacy?

The decision to shift the Golden Key focus from education-based service to literacy stems from the following:

- Illiteracy is an epidemic and social issue.
- Adopting one service focus allows us to streamline our programming, thus yielding a greater impact on illiteracy.
- Golden Key strives to support our mission through our various programs, benefits and services.

National Statistics*

- **44 million adults** in the United States cannot read well enough to read even a simple story to a child.
- **20 percent** of American adults read below a fifth-grade level – far below the level needed to earn a living wage.
- Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3-4 times more likely to **drop out** in later years.
- Approximately **50 percent** of America's adults are "functionally illiterate". This means they cannot carry out simple tasks like balancing a checkbook, reading a prescription drug label or filling out a job application.
- To determine how many **prison beds** will be needed in future years, some states are actually basing part of their projection on how well current elementary students are performing on reading tests.

*Trivian 2008, National Institute for Literacy 2007

Lenses of Literacy

Literacy goes deeper than reading and writing. It relates to knowledge and understanding in many areas of life. These classifications are not limited to those listed below but will begin to give you an idea of how broad this concept is.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Many ESL programs for early childhood and elementary education are provided through visual and auditory presentation. Computers in the classroom play a large role for implementing ESL programs for students of all ages. ESL curriculum may vary from state to state, but all states are required to provide ESL learning programs. Further, numerous ESL programs for adults are becoming widely available at community colleges and through distance learning programs.

Health Literacy

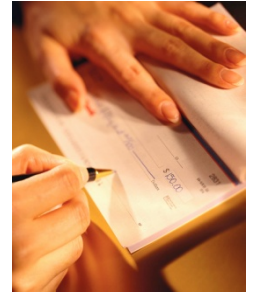
Lack of knowledge in this area affects people's ability to:

- Navigate the healthcare system, including filling out complex forms and locating providers and services.
- Share personal information with providers, such as health history.
- Engage in self-care and chronic disease management.
- Understand mathematical concepts such as probability and risk.



Financial Literacy

Includes the ability to discern financial choices, discuss money and financial issues without discomfort, plan for the future and respond competently to life events that affect everyday financial decisions. Example: Balancing a checkbook.



Mathematical Literacy

"An individual's capacity to identify and understand the role that mathematics plays in the world, to make well-founded judgments and to engage in mathematics in ways that meet the needs of that individual's current and future life as a constructive, concerned and reflective citizen."
– Defined by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). Example: Calculating the tip in a restaurant after a meal.

Social Literacy

Developing appropriate behaviors and decision-making skills that allow a person to function in society. An alternate definition would be the educating of persons on civic responsibility and community involvement.

Technological Literacy

Includes the ability to use technology to enhance the quality of education or communication and efficiency at home or in the workplace. The International Technology Education Association (ITEA) defines technological literacy as "the ability to use, manage, assess and understand technology. It involves knowledge, abilities and the application of both knowledge and abilities to real-world situations".