



3rd Grade Reading Success Matters

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR)

September 2020

The Florida Gap Map

Florida Chamber Foundation Unveils The Florida Gap Map - A first in the nation interactive tool identifying equity gaps in poverty and education

Recently, the Florida Chamber Foundation unveiled the nation's first interactive tool, the [Florida Gap Map](#), which visualizes equity gaps in poverty and education including the third grade reading scores for every public school in Florida and childhood poverty rates in each of Florida's 983 zip codes.

"Over the next decade the Florida Chamber wants to cut poverty in half (currently 870,505 children living in poverty) and ensure 100 percent of our third graders are reading at grade level (currently 58 percent).

As a first in the nation tool, the Florida Gap Map will help parents, business leaders, and policy makers identify Florida's equity gaps in poverty and education and will help unite the business community to create opportunity for all Florida children regardless of zip code, race, gender or any other factor," said Mark Wilson, President and CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce.

"Florida business leaders are already spearheading positive solutions in their local communities and the Florida Gap Map provides critical information they need to determine where to focus their efforts."

Children entering third grade this school year will be preparing to graduate from high school in 2030. To ensure they are prepared for an increasingly complex workforce, they must have a strong foundation.

"We developed this interactive tool as the one source in Florida to show the correlations between school reading scores and poverty. The Florida Gap Map will help guide business leaders, non-profits, governments, and philanthropists who are interested in helping improve Florida's public schools," said Dr. Jerry Parrish, Chief Economist, Florida Chamber Foundation.

Currently, there are more than 870,000 Florida children living in poverty. Additionally, only 58 percent of Florida's third graders can read on or above grade-level. By the year 2030, the Florida Chamber Foundation is committed via its [Florida Prosperity Initiative](#) to cut childhood poverty in half and through the [Business Alliance for Early Learning](#)

Census 2020 and the Future

With only days left to complete the census, the pressure is on! If all of our children aren't counted, it isn't us who misses out over the next ten years, it's them!



[The Statistics Lottery \(5 minutes\)](#)

For the next 15 days, we need all hands on deck as we race to a complete count!

WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DO

Message five people, including family members, friends, co-workers, customers, or clients and ask them if they've completed the 2020 Census. Make accessing the questionnaire super easy by providing the [online link](#) and [phone number](#). The Census Bureau also offers [web pages and guides in 59 non-English languages](#), including American Sign Language as well as guides in Braille and large print.

TOP 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

#1 The deadline is September 30.

#2 The census can be completed by phone 844-330-2020, in person when someone comes to your house, and online

in hand and through the [Business Alliance for Early Learning](#) to increase the number of third graders reading at grade level to 100 percent helping to secure those who represent the future of Florida: our youngest Floridians. These vital metrics and more are available on [TheFloridaScorecard.org](#) -- a dynamic online tool that identifies and tracks the key factors impacting Florida's future.

The Florida Gap Map shows where the important work of the Business Alliance for Early learning intersects with the Prosperity Initiative. To access the Florida Gap Map and learn more about third grade reading score and childhood poverty rates in your own zip code and neighborhood, please visit: www.TheFloridaGapMap.org.

Source: [Florida Chamber Foundation](#)

Access the full webinar launch by clicking on the image below. The brief overview of its features begins at 16 minutes with Florida Chamber Foundation Chief Economist Dr. Jerry Parrish.

Unifying Business for Good



[Gap Map Launch](#)

TAKE THE FLORIDA SAFE SURVEY

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs recently released an online survey, the Florida Safe Survey, to allow

Florida residents to make a self-

assessment of their #COVID19 behaviors. [Complete the self-audit](#) and receive a Safe Behavior Report to review the customized recommendations.



in person when someone comes to your house, and online at my2020census.gov.

#3 If a census worker comes to your door they will have a badge, will never ask for you SSN, financial information or citizenship status.

#4 On average, the census takes five minutes to complete.

#5 Information is confidential for 72 years.

WHY COMPLETING CENSUS 2020 IS CRITICAL FOR OUR KIDS

#1 Kids ages 0-4 were the most undercounted group. The census only happens every ten years, if you don't count your baby this year, they won't be accounted for any planning that affects them until 2030.

#2 Census data is used in funding for Head Start, schools, special education, childcare, school lunch programs, and more. If the children in your life aren't counted, it isn't you who misses out over the next ten years, it's them!

#3 In the age of COVID-19, families are trying to figure out the best way to get their kids the technology it takes to stay learning no matter what. Census data helps fund technology in schools so that they can be prepared for the unimaginable (also known as the year 2020!).

#4 It's not just about school. Census data is used to help fund housing assistance, SNAP, WIC, Title I grants, and many other critical social services. By counting kids in the 2020 Census, we ensure that safety net programs remain intact.

#5 Teach kids that they count. The census is about how many people live in the U.S. That's it. Regardless of economic status, race, immigration status or anything else, your family and your children count. Teach them young what it means to be counted.

BE A BUCKET FILLER

Embracing Our Differences Bucket Fillers Reading Day is going virtual!! and is looking for volunteers to read via Zoom on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Do you have 45 minutes to promote kindness and caring behaviors? If so, we encourage you to register [HERE](#).

