



ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

MADISON COUNTY, N.Y.

Community Snapshot

Madison County, N.Y., is where Dorothy really started her flight. Hometown to *Wizard of Oz* author Frank Baum, Madison County sits at the geographical heart of New York. Representing the other New York, Madison County has the state's sixth largest rural population. A five-hour drive from Manhattan, Madison County exudes rural qualities in demographic, economy, education and outlook. Madison County typifies the challenges that rural communities face in New York and across the country.

Community Solutions Action Plan

The Madison County Literacy Coalition has created a comprehensive strategy to increase the rates of grade-level reading founded on the following principles:

- **School Readiness:** The Coalition will work with early childhood service providers and school districts to create a common school readiness assessment and plans to focus on opportunities for coordination and alignment of existing programs
- **Student Attendance:** Attendance Works will guide the coalition's efforts to build a policy around creating a school and family culture based on the importance of attendance
- **Summer Learning:** Public libraries will be at the core of the county's summer work. The coalition will create a summer literacy program for grades 2-4 and will implement a countywide family literacy program to increase attendance at summer library programs

Partnerships

The Madison County Literacy Coalition is made up of more than 50 county organizations and partners with Literacy Powerline.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 73,442 residents
- 11,664 students
- 14.9 percent of students live in poverty
- 51.4 percent of third grade students read at grade level (state assessment)
- 89 percent graduation rate
- 95 percent student attendance
- Limited number of summer programs available

GOALS

- Increase percentage of students reading at grade level to more than 80 percent
- Reduce chronic absenteeism by 90 percent
- Increase school readiness to 100 percent
- Increase access to and involvement in summer learning programs

"We are not just planning. We are doing it now. Necessity is the mother of great innovations."