EARLY READING PROFICIENCY AND
YOUNG MEN OF COLOR

The 10 foundations working with the White House on My Brother’s Keeper have identified third-grade reading proficiency as a priority for improving academic achievement for young men of color. Results from the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress show that African-American and Hispanic fourth-grade boys lag behind their peers in reaching this critical milestone. Research published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation shows that students who do not read proficiently in third grade are far more likely to drop out of high school. This is especially true for African-American and Hispanic students from low-income families.

Percentage of 4th Grade Boys Who Scored At or Above Proficient Level in Reading: By Income and Race (2013)

Percentage of Students Who Drop Out of High School: By Poverty, Race-Ethnicity and 3rd Grade Reading Scores

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2013 Reading Assessment; KIDS COUNT.

*Low-income students are those eligible for the National School Lunch Program.