

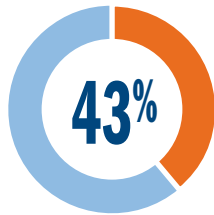
## READING PROFICIENCY



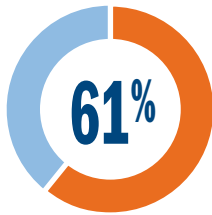
# Invest early or pay later

third grade reading proficiency predicts a student's success through high school

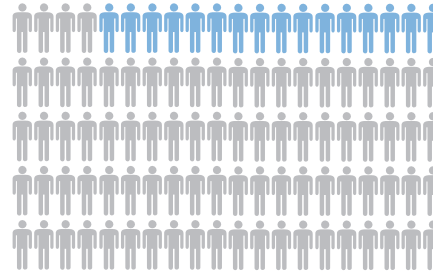
Massachusetts third graders scoring below proficient in reading in 2014



all students

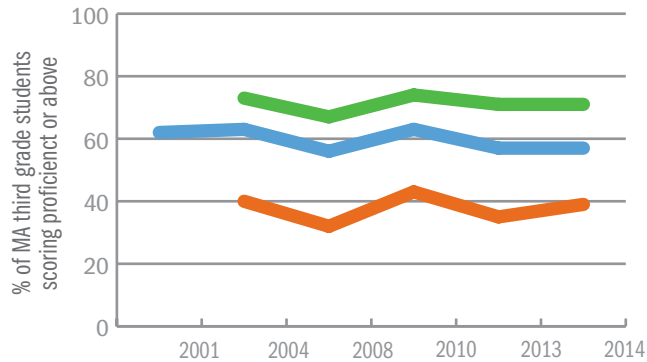


low-income students



**16%** of children who are **not reading proficiently** by the end of third grade **do not graduate** from high school **on time**

Reading performance has been stagnant for more than a decade



% of non-low income students proficient  
 % of students proficient  
 % of low income students proficient



**= \$349,000**

estimated costs to taxpayers of a Massachusetts high school dropout over his/her lifetime compared to a high school graduate

Sources: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Hernandez, D. J. (2012). Double Jeopardy: How third grade reading skills and poverty influence high school graduation. The Annie E. Casey Foundation.; Sum, A., Khatiwada, I., McLaughlin, J. Tobar, P., & Motroni, J. (January 2007). An Assessment of the Labor Market, Income, Health, Social, Civic and Fiscal Consequences of Dropping Out of High School: Findings for Massachusetts Adults in the 21st Century.