

## Libraries and Basic Literacy

Libraries can push Pennsylvania to achieve one of the highest literacy rates in the country, a trained and skilled workforce, and a growing economy, tax base, and population.

### Basic Literacy in Action

A library in Philadelphia joined forces with the PA Department of Labor and Industry's CareerLink to provide a program titled *Workplace Wednesdays*. Using grant funding, the library hosts weekly sessions on the employment process. Career counselors and coaches run sessions on topics like résumé and cover letter writing, using library resources in a job search, interviewing, and online job searching.

A library in Dauphin County has a popular program called *Kids Read to Pets*. Children and teens are encouraged to practice their reading skills by sharing a one-on-one book experience with a therapy dog or cat. Participants can choose from a preselected pile of books at varying reading levels or bring a book from home. This program is a community collaboration that involves the Dog Scouts of America and Red Cross Therapy Pet Program, whose volunteers donated their and their pets' time for one-on-one reading sessions.

Additional examples can be found on the PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries website, [www.paforward.org](http://www.paforward.org).

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