

\$52 Trillion

\$52 Trillion – US Societal Cost of this Generation of Poor Readers

- Children who read by the third grade seldom are ever involved with the criminal justice system.
- Four of five incarcerated juvenile offenders read two years or more below grade, and a majority are functionally illiterate.
- Several states forecast needed prison growth based on third grade reading scores.
- Our federal prisons are operating at 130% of capacity.
- America has over two million prison inmates, the highest rate in the world and five to ten times that of European countries. Another five million Americans are involved in the criminal justice system for probation, parole, or supervision, all unproductive activities.
- Lost Opportunity = \$7.5 million x 7 million