

THE COLLIER COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NAACP PRESENTS:



Once you learn to read, you will be forever free!

2026 SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



Vineyards Golf and Country Club
400 Vineyard Blvd. Naples FL, 34119

Tickets: \$150

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Oliver L. Phipps

Principal of First Baptist Academy

ABOUT OUR CAUSE

All proceeds to benefit the NAACP youth reading, scholarship, and literacy programs to increase proficiency in reading each year and to support closing the achievement gaps with the underserved minority youth.

Reading is the most crucial academic skill because it is the foundation for learning. Through third grade, children are learning to read; after third grade students read to learn. But only one-in-three students read proficiently by that point.

Without a strong foundation in reading, children are left behind at the beginning of their education. They lag in every class, year after year because more than 85 percent of the curriculum is taught by reading. And by the end of third grade, 74 percent of struggling readers won't ever catch up. In fact, one of the most important predictors of graduating from high school is reading proficiently by the end of third grade. A student who can't read on grade level by 3rd grade is four times less likely to graduate by age 19 than a child who does read proficiently by that time. Add poverty to the mix, and a student is 13 times less likely to graduate on time and that's why High school dropouts account for 67% of inmates in state prisons and 56% of federal prisons.

Students who drop out of high school are more likely to live a life of periodic unemployment and have a higher rate of using government assistance. They tend to cycle in and out of the prison system more often than students who obtain a high school diploma, and their annual income is lower.

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