

**From:** [Susan Crawford](#)  
**To:** [State Board Inbox](#)  
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Reading and writing cursive is an important life skill and students who are not fluent in cursive are barred from many occupations. For example, you cannot be a historian since most historical documents are written in cursive, you cannot even be a postal carrier until the last cursive writer dies.

Cursive writing helps train the brain to integrate visual, and tactile information, and fine motor dexterity.

The journal "Cognitive Neurobiology" reports: "learning cursive is an important tool for cognitive development, particularly in training the brain to learn "functional specialization"—that is, the capacity for optimal efficiency. In the case of learning cursive writing, the brain develops functional specialization that integrates both sensation, movement control, and thinking. Brain imaging studies reveal that multiple areas of brain become co-activated during the learning of cursive writing of pseudo-letters, as opposed to typing or just visual practice."

Students who are not fluent in cursive are the new illiterates.

Regards, Susan Crawford PhD