



The Literacy Alliance

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Overwhelming Majority of Literacy Alliance Students Seek GED Preparation

An overwhelming 94% enroll in Literacy Alliance Learning Centers to prepare for the GED examination, according to an October survey conducted at the agency's four learning centers.

The student survey is conducted every year to determine the programs' strengths and weaknesses. For the survey prompt "Please tell us why you enrolled in classes," students were invited to select from a list of choices all that applied to them. The majority selected "To get my GED," then 69% selected "So I can go to college or other form of advance training," and 57% selected "To get a better job."

Speaking about the 94%, Literacy Alliance Executive Director Judith Stabelli says, "The percentage demonstrates a specific need we are filling for individuals, and it shows the benefit our programs provide for the community in general."

In Allen County, about 34,000 citizens over 25 do not have a high school diploma or equivalent. Nationally, citizens at this education level earn about \$10,000 less than those who graduate, according to the 2000 census.

"Our programs benefit the community while helping these individuals," explains Literacy Alliance Public Relations and Marketing Manager Brian Schlichtenmyer, "because when our students earn their GED they're much closer to those next steps to more education and better jobs. Ultimately, they earn more money and can contribute to the economic health of the community."

Since 1988, the nonprofit Literacy Alliance has been dedicated to ending low literacy in Allen County. Learning centers, literacy programs, and tutoring services empower individuals to succeed at work, at home, and in the community.

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