



The Literacy Alliance

## Media Release

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### **The Literacy Alliance Exceeds Last Year's GED Numbers**

The number of Literacy Alliance students receiving the General Education Diploma (GED) has surpassed last year's number. Last year, 47 attending Literacy Alliance programs passed the GED examination. So far this year, more than 50 have passed.

"This is good news," says Public Relations and Marketing Manager Brian Schlichtenmyer. "It shows that The Literacy Alliance continues to fulfill its mission."

Executive Director Judith Stabelli notes that it is good news for local businesses struggling to find an educated workforce. Just as the high school diploma is the first step to fully entering the workforce, the GED is the first step for those who were unable to graduate.

A recent study has indicated that only 13% of out-of-school youth are employed and 25% of high school dropouts have received taxpayer-supported public assistance compared to 10% of high school graduates. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, high school dropouts earn less than those who graduate, on average \$18,700 annually for dropouts compared to nearly \$28,000 annually for graduates. The Literacy Alliance works to turn these statistics around.

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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