



## Portland LITERACY Council

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Millions of people have passed the GED® test and gone on to college and better jobs. GED grads can earn on average \$9,000 more per year (GED Testing Service).

Volunteer Literacy Tutors can help hard-working adults earn GEDs. Are you up to the challenge?

Portland Literacy Council partners with Multnomah County Library’s GED preparation program. PLC’s role is to provide tutor training to volunteers who will tutor at one of five library branches hosting Adult Literacy Tutoring sessions. The Library provides an orientation for potential tutors and an overview of volunteering at the Library and working with adult learners, conducts background checks on potential volunteers, and provide meeting space and GED study materials.

### How does the program work?

GED students come to one of the adult literacy tutoring sessions at the library without making an appointment. At every site, 5-10 volunteers recruited and trained through Portland Literacy Council are available to tutor whichever subject the student requests. Students enter with different academic levels and can participate in either 1-1 tutoring or small study groups. Tutors note student progress in individual folders which are available each session. They provide instruction in how to take practice tests using library resources, such as LearningExpress®. When students are ready to officially test, tutors help GED students register with GED Testing Service. Some students apply to Portland Literacy Council for test vouchers. The library provides GED study materials.

### Library Tutoring Sites

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
4 - 6 pm St. Johns Branch Meeting Room 7510 N Charleston Ave Portland OR 97203	5 - 7 pm Midland Branch Large Meeting Room 805 SE 122 <sup>nd</sup> Ave (south of SE Stark) Portland OR 97233	10:30 am– 12:30 pm Central Branch Community Room, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor 801 SW 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Portland OR 97205
5 - 7 pm North Portland Branch 525 N Killingsworth St, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Portland OR 97217		5 - 7 pm Gresham Branch 385 NW Miller Avenue Gresham OR 97030

By prior arrangement with the Library's Adult Literacy Coordinator, tutor/student pairs may meet outside of tutoring hours. All meetings must occur in a public place.

## Q&A about GED Tutoring

### **How can I help someone if I don't know much about the GED?**

Many tutors feel anxious that they may not be up to the task of tutoring an adult seeking a GED. Adults without high school diplomas may feel that same anxiety—every day of their life. Volunteer tutors can steer GED candidates past that anxiety and help them realize their goals for a better job, enrolling in college, or even helping their kids with homework.

### **What if I want to work with ESL students?**

You're in luck! Roughly 90 percent of the adults in the Library's GED preparation program are immigrants or refugees. Attaining a GED will help them realize their educational and economic potential. You can also work with native English speakers who want to improve their skills and finish high school.

### **What if I'm not good at math or science (or writing or social studies)?**

Tutors are the tour guides to getting a GED. You can learn about the testing process and how to find and use GED preparation materials. You can help adults build on their strengths and offer encouragement and positive feedback. PLC and the Library are here to support you, offer advice, and provide training.

### **How long does it take to get a GED?**

It depends -- on the GED candidate's education experience, their desire to get a GED, and how much time they have for study. GED prep can help adults overcome embarrassing school experiences and gain confidence to pass the GED test. Many adult candidates have jobs and may have family responsibilities that limit study time. A tutor can guide studying, help set timelines, and define short-term goals that result in realistic expectations.

### **What if I can't make a long-term commitment to tutor GED candidates?**

Let's focus on a commitment you can make. The Library's Adult Literacy Outreach staff will consider your scheduling concerns when matching tutors and learners.

### **Questions – Let us know!**

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