



The Tarrant Literacy Coalition empowers adult learners and those who teach them with high quality literacy services and resources so businesses can hire, people can work, and families can thrive.

### **Literacy and Learning**

The Tarrant Literacy Coalition provides training and technical support to literacy instructors from community and faith based programs. This is done through monthly training events, such as the First Friday Forums that are held online and in locations throughout Tarrant County; annual conferences, including the Metroplex Literacy Conference held each spring at Dallas Baptist University and the DFW Literacy Symposium held each fall. In addition, the Coalition receives, sorts and distributes thousands of books each year to instructors, students and their children, including thousands of dollars' worth of curriculum materials for classroom instruction. The Coalition also distributes grant funds and in-kind support (such as computers) to local literacy programs when available.



### **AEL Call Center**

Through the Adult Education and Literacy Call Center, Tarrant Literacy Coalition staff help adults find the right program where they can study for the high school equivalency exam, learn to speak, read and write English, improve basic reading and writing skills, develop/improve computer and job skills, obtain financial and health literacy skills and more. The Call Center is also a resource for volunteers who are looking for a place to get involved in a literacy program.

### **Project BEST**

In partnerships with the White Settlement Family Resource Center, the Tarrant Literacy Coalition offers weekly classes for adults who are studying for the High School Equivalency (HSE) exam. These classes specifically focus on the five subjects students need to pass to receive the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency: math, science, social studies, language arts reading and language arts writing. 100% of our students who have taken the HSE exam after completing our classes have passed the exam. In addition, the Coalition provides free pre-testing for any adult in the community who is planning to take the HSE exam and offers free resources to volunteers from other programs who are starting an HSE class.

### **LEARN for Life**

While it is no secret, it is a fact that largely remains hidden: One in five adults in Tarrant County reads below a fourth grade level. This low reading level is usually a complex picture of cause and effect involving factors such as poverty, interrupted education,



learning disabilities for many, and problems with employment throughout life.

Although Tarrant County is very proactive in providing adult education and training for employment, many adults “fly under the radar” in that limited skills place limits on what they can achieve without specific reading help. To address this need, three agencies—the Tarrant Literacy Coalition, LinkED (formerly The Learning Center of North Texas), and Literacy Connexus—formed Project LEARN (Literacy Education and Reading Network) which provides one-on-one reading tutorial for adults and referral services to other community programs as needed. In 2020, the "Project" became LEARN for Life, to reflect our students' placed value on education, and our volunteer tutors dedication to their students' success. The desire to learn and the willingness to help are the building blocks of a successful tutorial program.



### **Advocacy and Outreach**

The Tarrant Literacy Coalition is the “voice” for literacy in Tarrant County. Recognized as one of the leading resources for information regarding the impact of low literacy, our staff members and volunteers are frequently called upon to participate in community events that address key issues related to education. We advocate for improved resources for families and adults, assist other programs in the development of resources and speak out about the need for community-wide solutions that involved a wide array of stakeholders. The Tarrant Literacy Coalition is proud to participate with such efforts as the United Way of Tarrant County, Convoy of Hope, the Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning (TCALL), Literacy Texas and ProLiteracy.

### **Join Us**

Improving adult literacy is not glamorous. It is hard work. Every student comes into class with a story. Some are young people who dropped out of school for a variety of reasons, others are older adults who have been out of school for a long time. They each realize now how very hard it is to get and keep a job without a high school diploma. Some are adults whose first language is not English, who want to learn to read, write and speak English well enough to get a good job to support their family, and many want to go on to earn their Certificate of High School Equivalency. Regardless of their situation, they all have one thing in common. They want to learn.

Our students come because they have a goal – the goal of a better job, a better life, a better future for themselves and their children.

The Tarrant Literacy Coalition and the 200+ organizations we work with share that goal. We want that life for them. We believe in their future. Our staff and volunteers work hard every day, with the generous support of our donors, to help make that happen for thousands of students all across our community.

If you’d like to get involved by serving on our board of directors, tutoring a student or teaching in one of our classes, call or email and we will show you how you can join us in our mission: [info@tarrantlit.org](mailto:info@tarrantlit.org) or (817) 870-0082.

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