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Leading the Way Thanks to You!

In Pennsylvania, there are 33 adult and family literacy programs that receive Department of Education funding. Programs are evaluated and ranked on a variety of criteria from student enrollment to test scores to GED completion.

Literacy Pittsburgh led the state in many categories. During 2024-25, the last complete year compiled by the state, Literacy Pittsburgh enrolled 2,108 adults, which was 110% of our contracted enrollment for that program year. We outperformed all other programs in this metric. In total, we helped 3,200 students across our programs.

Our class-based instruction ranked second in the state for high school equivalency (GED) accomplishments. We were in the top third for educational gains.

Literacy Pittsburgh's volunteer tutoring program is unparalleled. We are the largest tutoring program in the state with 527 students receiving this instructional model. We are number one for educational level gains, high school equivalency achievement, and educational level gains amongst tutoring programs.

Because of the support of our donors, volunteers, and partners, our students are equipped to make a difference for their families and for our region.

Alex Dow Named Practitioner of the Year



We are thrilled to celebrate Alex Dow as Practitioner of the Year—a recognition that reflects not only his exceptional technical expertise, but the profound, human-centered impact he has on Literacy Pittsburgh every day. He received his award last month at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Adult Continuing Education.

As the architect of our first comprehensive internal data system, Alex has transformed how we understand student engagement and strengthened our ability to exceed enrollment targets and support strong learner outcomes.

As one excerpt from his nomination notes, “Alex’s influence is deeply human-centered...ensuring processes reduce barriers, honor learner complexities, and support staff in delivering responsive and compassionate services.”
Congrats, Alex!

Spotlight on Partnership: Literacy Pittsburgh and PPG



At Literacy Pittsburgh, we believe strong partnerships make lasting impact possible. Through long-term investment, volunteer engagement, and a focus on workforce readiness, our collaboration with PPG Industries and the PPG Foundation reflects a shared belief that education is a powerful engine for individual opportunity and regional growth.

For Yaqi Wo, Literacy Pittsburgh's board member and a PPG leader, this work is deeply personal. "I grew up valuing the importance of how education can transform a person's life," Yaqi shares. "That's why Literacy Pittsburgh's mission, Better lives through learning, resonates with me so deeply." [Keep reading](#)

Celebrate a Mother Who Leads

Honoring **Mothers** *Every Day*



Through the years at Literacy Pittsburgh, we've had the honor of supporting countless mothers - women whose resilience, determination, and love inspire us every day.



They come to us to improve their English, earn their GED, develop career skills, and better guide their children's learning - all while juggling jobs, raising families, and aspiring to a better life.



This Mother's Day season, we invite you to honor the women who matter most to you by helping a mother shape a brighter path forward.

Celebrate a mother who leads.





**BETTER
LIVES
THROUGH
LEARNING**

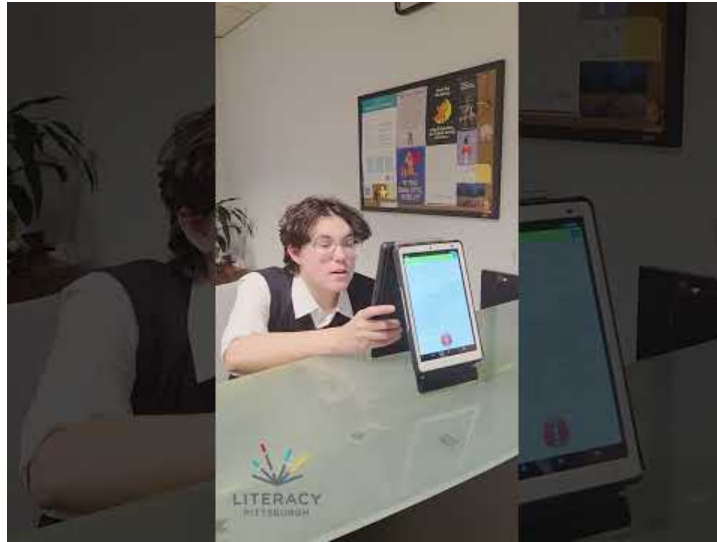
This Mother's Day, join us in celebrating the women in your life by supporting a mother who is rewriting her future. Your gift helps her take the next step with confidence. Honor her courage. Support a mother who leads.

With your support, mothers are gaining the skills they need to pursue better jobs, support their children's education, and create lasting stability.

From all of us at Literacy Pittsburgh, thank you for standing with mothers who are changing their lives and their families' futures.

Make Your Gift Today

Bridging the Language Gap



Elijah Bayuk and Najlaa Ebrahim from our staff demonstrate how the ILA device works in this video.

We are grateful to the Falk Facilities and Technology Improvement Fund at United Way of Southwestern PA for supporting the purchase of two Instant Language Assistant (ILA) translation devices.

For Enrollment Coordinator Elijah Bayuk, who greets dozens of new and ongoing students each week from our front desk, it has been a game-changer.

"This device has allowed me to register walk-ins for English orientation a lot more easily." Elijah explains. "It's also helped me figure out what questions current students and waiting students have, and the translation has made me a lot more confident that the students and I are on the same page about the information being shared."

Literacy Pittsburgh is Charity of the Month for May at East End Brewing



We're excited to share that Literacy Pittsburgh has been named East End Brewing Company's Charity of the Month for May. [East End Brewing](#) has several convenient locations, including their Larimer Brewpub in the East End, the Mt. Lebanon Taproom, and a seasonal pop-up beer garden along the North Side bike trail. Stop by, enjoy some great local food and craft beer, and help show support for our mission. This is a fun and easy way to get out in the community and help raise awareness and support for Literacy Pittsburgh!

Volunteers Help with Tax Prep



Volunteers with AARP were on hand last month helping students prepare their tax returns. Thank you to Literacy Pittsburgh board member Kevin Brand for organizing this session.

Literacy Pittsburgh Recognized as Team of the Year

We are very proud to share that we were selected as Team of the Year in the Pittsburgh Human Resources Association's Engaging Pittsburgh: Innovative People Practices Awards. By encouraging communication, investing in professional development, and aligning responsibilities with strategic goals, Literacy Pittsburgh has built a team environment dedicated to student success. We are honored to be recognized for these efforts at PHRA's recent awards luncheon.



Spotlight on Success: D'Arcy



"Most Americans don't realize how very difficult the English language is to speak... I would like to be a

bridge to others."

After seeing a friend find success at Literacy Pittsburgh, D'Arcy decided it was time to expand her own options. She is currently working toward her GED with plans to move into CPU classes for Excel and Google certifications.

But her ultimate vision is higher learning: an Associate degree in languages to become an interpreter. Growing up in the West Bronx, D'Arcy discovered a natural gift for languages and a deep respect for the different cultures that enrich this country.

By mastering languages like Haitian French or Somali Maay Maay, she hopes to support those arriving with a dream of a better life—helping them navigate the daily tasks that many English speakers take for granted.

"It feels like we are all on the same path, and that path leads me into a feeling of freedom." [Keep reading](#)

Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month

This week, Board Member Yaqi Wo and CEO Carey Harris traveled to Harrisburg for a celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month hosted by the AAPI caucus of the general assembly. Rep. Arvind Venkat, one of the five members of the caucus – and the only member west of Harrisburg – recognized Literacy Pittsburgh with a citation. Rep. Venkat has been a great supporter of Literacy Pittsburgh, and we appreciate this recognition.



Sign up for our Next Introductory Tutor Training!

[Learn more](#) about becoming a volunteer adult literacy tutor and register for training.

Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners

In-Person Workshop

Sunday, May 17

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Literacy Pittsburgh's Downtown Center

411 7th Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners

In-Person Workshop

Friday, June 5

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

JCC South Hills branch

345 Kane Blvd

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Why We Do the Work We Do

Each student has inspired me to be a better person. I realize that this doesn't happen by

chance. So many people in the Literacy Pittsburgh organization work to make this a positive experience for students. You create thoughtful student-teacher matches, you select appropriate materials and you provide support along the way. I am very fortunate to be a part of Literacy Pittsburgh and I appreciate you very much.

Literacy Pittsburgh Tutor



Support Literacy Pittsburgh with your purchase of comfy tees, cozy sweatshirts, and other cool merch. 10% of each purchase will help our students to succeed. Visit our merch store.

Thank you to Highmark Wholecare for sponsorship of *The Spark Online*.



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