

Read to Learn Adult Literacy/Volunteer Program Information for Prospective Literacy Tutors



What is Read to Learn?

Read to Learn is a free, volunteer based literacy program where trained volunteers work one-to-one tutoring adult learners with the goal of improving reading abilities and basic skills. The mission of the District 214 Community Education Read to Learn Adult Literacy/Volunteer program is to improve the quality of life for those adults living in the northwest suburbs of Chicago who read and write English below the ninth grade level.

Who can become a tutor?

Potential tutors must have a strong foundation in basic skills and possess a sincere desire to help another adult learn *to read, write, and speak in English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one's goals, and develop one's knowledge and potential.* (Definition of literacy from the National Literacy Act of 1991.)

What is required of volunteer tutors?

Volunteer tutors are required to complete the pre-service training which consists of two 45-minute online training sessions; attendance at a 7-1/2 hour day of workshops, and attend ten 1/2 hour workshops. These ten workshops are given 30 minutes each week at the tutoring site prior to adult learners' arrival to class. For the first semester only, volunteer tutors are asked to come to class 30 minutes earlier than the scheduled class time. Tutors are asked to make a 10-week commitment to the program.

What support is provided to tutors?

Site Supervisors, who are professional adult educators, will direct the assessment and evaluation of the adult learners, plan weekly individualized lessons for each adult learner, provide instructional materials and give support and information to tutors. In-service workshops which address specialized teaching theories, methods and techniques are made available throughout the year. The Coordinator of Volunteer Services and the Program Coordinator are also part of the tutor support team.

Where and when do tutors meet with their adult learners?

Thirteen classes are conveniently located throughout the Northwest suburbs in schools, libraries, and churches. Classes are held once a week for 10 weeks, 2-1/2 hours per week. (Not necessarily consecutive weeks. It is dependent on location.) The Site Supervisor will match tutors with an adult learner. A tutor and their adult learner will work together for the entire 10 weeks. There are morning, afternoon, and evening classes. Volunteer tutors select the location they wish to tutor. The Read to Learn staff makes every attempt to honor that request, however it is dependent on adult learner registration at each location. Volunteer tutors may be asked for a second location choice.

What adult learners are served by the Read to Learn program?

There is no typical adult learner. Our adult learners come from all walks of life. Many of our adult learners are foreign born, non-native speakers of English. All share the desire to improve English reading and writing skills.

How can I become a volunteer tutor?

Visit our website: <http://ce.d214.org/readtolearn> and fill out an application. If you have any questions, call Kim at the Read to Learn office at (847) 718-7724.