



City of Dallas

Adult Learning Initiatives at Dallas Public Library

**Quality of Life, Arts, and
Culture
November 12, 2024**

Heather Lowe, Interim Director
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Engagement Administrator
Dallas Public Library

Presentation Overview



- History of Adult Learning Initiatives
- Focus of Adult Learning
- Redevelopment funds at Vickery Park Branch
- Next Steps



Dallas Public Library – History of Adult Learning Initiatives



For over a decade, the Dallas Public Library has worked toward a robust schedule of adult literacy classes with the lowest barriers in the region.

- 2012 - Began English language classes after DISD District 10 ended adult education
- 2012 - Initially accepted WIOA funding and partnered with Univ. of Texas Arlington for teachers
- 2013 - Corporate and grant funding supported the creation of Literacy Centers at Bachman Lake and Dallas West Branch Libraries
- 2014 - opened a GED Testing Center in the Central Library through grant and Atmos Energy funding
- 2014 - began offering online GED Academy study program
- 2017 - began teaching Citizenship classes due to reduction in partner class availability



Dallas Public Library – History of Adult Learning Initiatives



- 2018 - expanded English classes to all locations utilizing Texas State Library and Archives Commission grant to hire full-time instructors
- 2018 - shifted curriculum to be activity-based and related to real life skills (completing rental applications, developing a budget)
- 2020 - adapted to the pandemic and quickly provided virtual classes
- 2021 - returned to in-person classes but maintained virtual presence, GED Academy available in Spanish
- 2023 - began offering a High School diploma program



Dallas Public Library – Focus of Adult Learning



GED preparation classes

GED Testing & Graduations

English Language Learning

Citizenship Test Preparation

Adult Basic Literacy

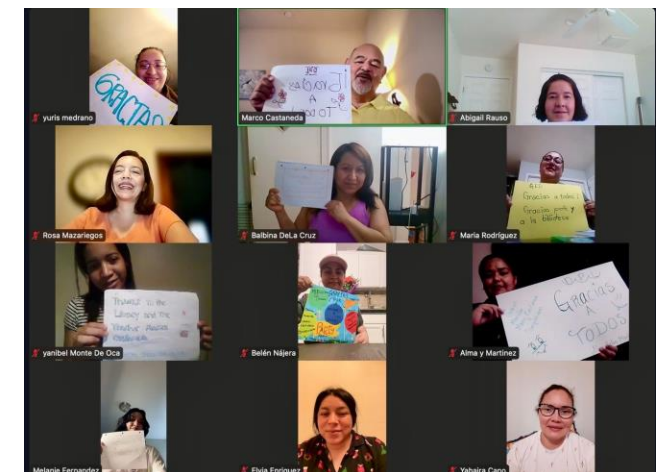
Spanish / English Language Exchange



GED Program



- 1,470 number for FY24 enrollments
- Taught by highly qualified staff instructors or trained volunteers
- Available in-person and online
- In-person classes held at 14 locations
- 4 classes available online
- Self-paced GED Academy program online in English and Spanish
- No income or identification requirements and no limit on how many classes can be taken



GED Testing Center & Graduations



- Testing Center at the Central Library open outside of regular business hours
- Atmos Energy funds full scholarships for GED tests
- Scholarships allow staff to encourage and support students
- Graduations provide opportunities for achievement to be recognized by family and friends.



English Language Learning Program



- 2,163 number for FY24 enrollments
- Taught by highly qualified staff instructors or trained volunteers
- Wilkinson Center and Hope Literacy partner to offer classes
- Available in-person and online
- In-person classes held at 15 locations
- 2 classes available online
- No income or identification requirements and no limit on how many classes can be taken



Citizenship Test Preparation Program



- In-person classes at 5 locations, one in Spanish
- Partnership with Light of Hope Immigration for classes at Vickery Park
- 18 students have become citizens in FY24



Spanish / English Language Exchange



- Compliment to ELL classes while meeting community need for Spanish language learning
- Curriculum of engaging discussion topics.
- Participants learn by sharing their native language skills in casual conversation
- Breaks down linguistic barriers and promotes cultural unity.
- Piloted at the North Oak Cliff and expanded to Arcadia Park, Bachman Lake, and White Rock Hills locations this Fall.



Basic Adult Literacy Program



- Partnership with Readers2Leaders
- Curriculum is evidence-based phonics instruction
- Group setting supports self-esteem and motivation
- One of very few basic literacy classes for adults in the city.
- Class is located at Dallas West 2 evenings a week.



Dallas Public Library – Adult Learning at Vickery Park



- Dallas Public has implemented a dedicated adult learning space the Vickery Park location with redevelopment fund designated by Councilmember Gay Donnell Willis
- Dedicated Branch Instructor
- Classes offered in this space will focus on adult learning in three tiers:
 - Literacy: Language Skills, Citizenship and GED
 - Life Skills
 - Work Skills
- Classes currently offered:
 - Weekly English Language Learning classes
 - Sewing Class
 - Citizenship classes



Dallas Public Library – Next Steps



- Working toward:
 - Certifications/Credentialing that works in collaboration with HR and Office of Community Care and Empowerment.
 - Job/Career Digital Literacy
 - Increased recruitment for volunteer instructors





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Appendix – Fall 2024 Class schedule



Location	Days	Time	Subject
Arcadia Park	T	10:00 - 11:30	ELL - Basic Level
Arcadia Park	T	12:00 - 1:30	GED - Spanish
Arcadia Park	S	11:00am - 12:30am	ELL
Arcadia Prk	S	10:00 am - 11:00am	Spanish / English Language Exchange
Bachman Lake	W	10:00 - 11:30	Basic - ELL
Bachman Lake	W	1:00 - 2:30	Intermediate - ELL
Bachman Lake	S	10:30 - 12:00	ELL
Bachman Lake	T	6:00 - 7:30	ELL
Bachman Lake	W	1:00 - 2:30	Intermediate - ELL
Bachman Lake	W	1:00 - 2:30	Intermediate - ELL
Central	S	10:30 - 12:00	ELL
Central	T/W/R	1:00 - 3:00	GED - English
Dallas West	R	12:00 - 1:30	Citizenship
Dallas West	R	10:00 - 11:30	ELL
Dallas West	S	10:30-12:00	ELL
Dallas West	T/R	6:00 - 8:00	English Literacy for Spanish Speake
Dallas West	M/W	1:00 - 2:30	GED - Spanish
Forest Green	T / R	1:00 - 2:30	ELL
Forest Green	T/R	6:00 - 7:30	GED
Grauwlyer Park	S	10:30-12:00	ELL
Hampton Illinois	T/R	6:00 - 7:30	ELL
Hampton Illinois	S	10:30-12:00	ELL
Hampton Illinois	T/R	1p - 2:30	GED
Highland Hills	T/R	6:00 - 7:30	GED
Kleberg Rylie	S	12:00 - 1:30	Citizenship

Location	Days	Time	Subject
Kleberg Rylie	W	10:00 - 11:30	GED - Spanish
Lancaster Kiest	T/R	6:00 - 7:30	GED
Lochwood	W / R	6:00 - 7:30	GED
Martin Luther King, Jr.	M/W	10:00 - 11:30	GED
North Oak Cliff	W	10:00 - 11:30	ELL
North Oak Cliff	W	6:00 - 7:30	GED
Online	T/R	12:00	Conversation
Online	M/W	1:00 - 2:30	ELL
Online	T/W/R	1:00 - 3:00	GED - English
Online	M/T/W/R	6:00 - 8:00	GED - English
Online	M/T/W/R	6p - 8p	GED in Spanish
Online	Saturday	10am - 12pm	GED in Spanish
Park Forest	S	10:30 - 12:00	ELL
Pleasant Grove	W	1:30 - 3:00	Citizenship in Spanish
Pleasant Grove	T/R	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	ELL
Polk Wisdom	T/R	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	GED
Prairie Creek	M / W	9:30 - 11:00	ELL
Prairie Creek	T/R	6:00 p - 7:30 p	GED
Renner Frankford	W / S	1:00 p - 2:30 p	ELL
Timberglen	W/S	10:00 - 11:30	ELL
Vickery Park	T/R	6:00 pm - 7:30pm	ELL
White Rock	s	12pm - 1:00pm	Spanish / English Language Exchange
White Rock	W	1:30 - 3:00	Citizenship
White Rock	M	10:00 - 11:30	ELL
White Rock	M	1:00 - 2:30	ELL
White Rock	S	10:30-12:00	ELL
White Rock	T/R	6:00 - 7:30	GED



Dallas Public Library – Partnerships



- Partners that teach classes at our branches.

- Readers 2 Leaders
- Light of Hope Immigration Law Center
- Wilkinson Center

- Partners that refer students to our GED Scholarship Program.

- Dallas College
- For Oak Cliff
- Gateway Foundation
- Café Momentum
- Men of Nehemiah

