

## Adult Tutorial Program

The Adult Tutorial Program of Strafford County is a state and federally funded program that serves under-educated adults in all 13 towns of Strafford County.

It is located in the McConnell Center in Dover as part of the Dover Adult Learning Center. Using volunteer tutors, the program offers free, confidential, one-to-one instruction in the following areas:

Basic reading

Basic writing

Basic math

English as a second language (ESL)

Hi-SET (high school equivalency)

US citizenship test

Adult diploma classes

Specific tests—driving, LNA, etc.

Volunteer tutors are all ages and come from many different backgrounds and careers. Experience in a formal teaching setting is not required. Patience, humor, and an open mind are much more important, as well as the willingness to work as one adult helping another adult in a partnership of mutual respect.

## Individual Tutoring

The heart of the program lies in one-to-one tutoring for adult students who are functioning below a high school level in one or more academic areas. Students who may be uncomfortable in a classroom, those who have time conflicts with regularly scheduled adult education programs, or those who have transportation or childcare issues may find the Adult Tutorial Program a comfortable alternative. Also, many students request tutorial sessions to help them succeed in adult education classes they are already taking.

Tutors and students meet at a time and place mutually convenient, often at Dover Adult Learning Center or the local library. Tutors receive training and ongoing support as they work in partnership with their students to help them achieve educational goals they have set for themselves. It is truly amazing what personal instruction, attention, and encouragement can accomplish!

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## Other Volunteer Opportunities

- Assist a classroom teacher in one of the ongoing adult education classes
- Proctor the open computer lab
- Assist in the Center's childcare
- Tutor at Strafford County jail
- Participate in a weekly conversation group for non-native speakers
- Edit an annual publication of student writing

## What does a tutor do?

- attends an initial orientation presented by the coordinator
- meets with the student and coordinator to discuss goals, schedules, and materials
- meets with student 2 to 4 hours a week, probably for several months
- focuses on the student's needs, goals, and interests—not his own
- keeps a brief log of all meetings and assignments
- reports total tutoring hours every three months to the coordinator for NH State quarterly reports
- communicates with the coordinator if tutoring stops or if there are difficulties
- is prompt, prepared, and positive—and does his best to encourage the student to be likewise
- considers tutoring a partnership based on mutual respect
- believes in life-long learning

## **What our students and tutors say about the Adult Tutorial Program:**

### **Students**

*"Before I started studying, I couldn't help my son with his grade school work. Now I can."*

*"I'm a single parent. Getting my GED helped me get a better job."*

*"My kids ask me to read to them now. Before they only went to their mother."*

*"I realize now that I'm not dumb. I can learn. I just needed my own teacher."*

*"I really enjoy my tutor as a teacher and a friend."*

### **Tutors**

*"It's a real joy to help people help themselves."*

*"The program has been a wonderful experience. I only regret I didn't know about it years ago."*

*"I feel as if I learn more from my student than he learns from me."*

## **A message from the Volunteer Tutor Coordinator**

Dear Prospective Tutor,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer tutor with the Adult Tutorial Program of Strafford County. Before you become an active tutor, you will be asked to attend an orientation which will give you information about the program, the opportunity to get acquainted with the coordinator, choices about what subjects you would like to tutor, and training in the teaching of adult learners.

Working with another adult to help him or her achieve an educational goal can be a rewarding volunteer experience.

I'm very grateful that the Adult Tutorial Program exists—solely because of the skills and talents of many people and their great spirit of volunteerism.

Thank you.

Bridget Barker

Adult Tutorial Coordinator

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*A rewarding volunteer opportunity  
tutor an adult student*

## **The Adult Tutorial Program of Strafford County**

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