

Project L.E.A.D.
(Literacy for Every Adult in Dade)

Offers basic reading and writing instruction to adults seeking to improve their literacy skills.

- One-to-one tutoring instruction
- Free instruction
- Free teaching materials
- Confidentiality

Percentage of adults at the lowest of the five levels of English-language literacy:

United States	22%
Florida	24%
Miami-Dade County	42%

Statistical source: National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL)



Project L.E.A.D.
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Miami-Dade Public Library System
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Project L.E.A.D. is an affiliate organization of
ProLiteracy America.



Miami-Dade Public Library System

Project
L.E.A.D.
is
Changing
Lives

Project L.E.A.D.
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Main Library
101 W. Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33130
305.375.5323
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About Adult Illiteracy

In Miami-Dade County, an estimated 42% of all adults are considered to be “functionally illiterate.” This means they lack the minimum reading and writing skills necessary to function in society.

“I never wanted to read so bad in my life.”
– Robert, adult learner

It means that they:

- can’t read to their children
- can’t pass a driving test
- can’t apply for a job
- can’t write a letter or an e-mail
- can’t read the instructions on a medicine bottle.

Functional illiteracy affects us all. Adults who lack literacy skills tend to remain in low-level jobs or may be unemployed, thus depriving local employers of a skilled workforce. Illiteracy also contributes to crime, family stress, accidents and the spread of disease.

About Project L.E.A.D.

The mission of Project L.E.A.D., an outreach service of the Miami-Dade Public Library System, is to reduce functional illiteracy among English-speaking adults in Miami-Dade County. Since 1985, the program has offered free, confidential, one-to-one tutoring in basic literacy to thousands of adults aged 18 and over who have requested assistance.

“Reading is my passion. I can’t imagine what it’s like not to be able to read.”
– Lydia, volunteer tutor

Who Are Our Students?

Our adult learners are male and female, native-born and foreign-born. They are white, African American, Hispanic and Asian-American. They range in age from 18 to 80. Some have high school diplomas, while others have had little schooling. They come to us because they require individualized instruction. They come to us because they were not able to learn in a classroom setting.

To be part of the program, the adult learner must:

- be English-speaking and at least 18 years old
- visit or call Project L.E.A.D. to register
- undergo a skills assessment to determine reading ability
- agree to meet with a tutor at least once or twice a week at a convenient branch library location.

Become A Tutor!

Our volunteer tutors represent a cross section of our community. What distinguishes a L.E.A.D. volunteer is his or her keen desire to help others improve their literacy skills. If you wish to join our group of dedicated volunteers, you will be provided with the necessary training and materials. Once trained, you will be eligible for placement with an adult learner. You and your student will meet at least once or twice a week, 60 to 90 minutes per session, at a mutually agreeable time and place, usually at one of the dozens of branches of the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

“Being a literacy tutor has changed how I look at the world.”
– Deon, volunteer tutor

The ideal tutor has good reading skills, patience, compassion and flexibility. To avoid disappointing the adult learner, the tutor is asked to make a minimum six-month commitment to the program.

To be part of the program, the tutor must:

- be English-speaking and at least 18 years old
- be a high-school graduate
- complete a registration form in person or over the phone
- complete a scheduled program orientation and tutor-training workshop
- agree to be fingerprinted and submit to a criminal background check.

How You Can Help

Become a volunteer tutor or provide assistance by:

- recruiting family and friends to volunteer
- telling someone you know who has trouble reading and writing about Project L.E.A.D.
- making a tax-deductible donation to help Project L.E.A.D. continue with its mission
- inviting a Project L.E.A.D. staff member to address your organization

For More Information

Call Project L.E.A.D. at 305-375-5323, or send an e-mail to projectlead@mdpls.org. Visit www.mdpls.org and follow the links to “Outreach” and “Literacy.”

