



East Area Adult School
300 E Bridgers Ave.
Auburndale, FL 33823
863-965-5475
www.eastareaadult.com/

Headline: November 2021 Spotlight - East Area Adult School

Auburndale, FL - Did you know? One in four adults in Polk County cannot read higher than the third grade reading level. Low literacy rates negatively affect the communities of Eastern Polk County. When adults have not completed high school, their job opportunities are limited, they seek public assistance and remain on it longer than those who have completed high school, and they have limited resources for improving their quality of life. This impacts our economy, tax revenue, and increases the crime rate in our neighborhoods. Over half the population of inmates in South County Jail and Central County Jail have not completed high school.

East Area Adult School (EAAS), located in Auburndale, FL, is an accredited Polk County Public School that prepares adult students to take the GED Test, or to learn or improve their English Reading, Writing and Speaking skills. EAAS offers day and evening classes, in person on campus in Auburndale, and at locations in Haines City, Davenport, Winter Haven, and Lake Wales. They also offer both GED and English classes online. In addition, they are proud to be able to offer the GED curriculum in Spanish, either in person or online. EAAS' Spanish GED class on campus began in January, and they already boast one graduate, with 2 more close behind. This is a great benefit to those whose first language is Spanish and who read and write best in Spanish.

Serving Polk County since 1974, East Area Adult School has changed over the years to meet the needs of the adults on the east side of Polk County. Years ago, there were community education classes and interest-focused seminars. Today, EAAS serves students 16 and older who have not finished their high school diploma. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted regular education and some students floundered trying to complete work virtually. East Area Adult School is filling that void and helping those students finish their credits or move into the GED program to complete their diploma. During this time, they have seen students blossom and begin to develop confidence in their academic abilities. Many students who struggled in traditional education find themselves spurred to excel in EAAS' environment due to small class sizes, self-pacing, and guided lessons that focus on the specific skills and content of college and career readiness curriculum.

A “GED” (General Educational Development Diploma) is a high school equivalency diploma. The students must meet the same rigor of learning that is required in the high schools of that same time frame. When the requirements change, the GED tests are updated to match those requirements. When a student completes the work and passes all 4 subject area tests, he or she receives the State of Florida High School Diploma.

Would you be willing to make a small investment to help change the direction of a person's life in a way that would improve their life and the life of their family and our communities in Eastern Polk County? The cost to attend East Area Adult School is minimal. The placement test is \$20, and the tuition is only \$30 for each term. The most it would cost a person for one year of education is \$80.

The 4 GED subject area tests are \$32 each. Your \$128 investment could change the trajectory of someone’s life and cause a ripple effect of change in their family!

Another way you can help is by volunteering a few hours each week to assist an adult student with their reading or math skills. (Never fear, some just need help with the basic math facts!) Our students attend class on campus in Auburndale M-F 8 am - 2:30 pm, OR T, W, Th 6-9 pm. EAAS also has classes in Davenport, Haines City, Lake Wales, and Winter Haven. If one of those classes is more convenient to you, they would welcome your investment of time!

Contact Brooksie Smith by phone at the school at 863-965-5475, immediately press 413, or by email at brooksie.smith@polk-fl.net for specific information on how to donate or how to register to volunteer.

Contact: East Area Adult School
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