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Raising the Standard of Living Through Educating People in District 502

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Raising the Standard of Living Through Educating People in District 502

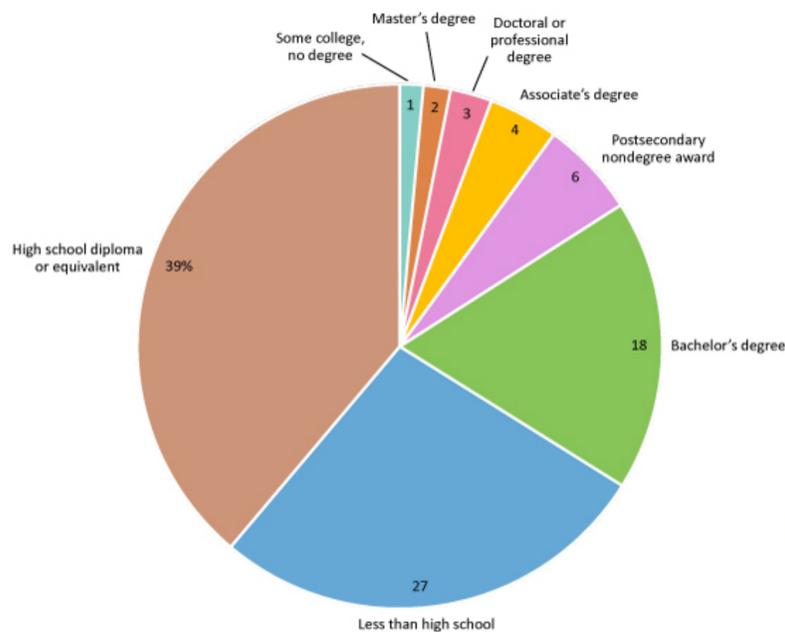
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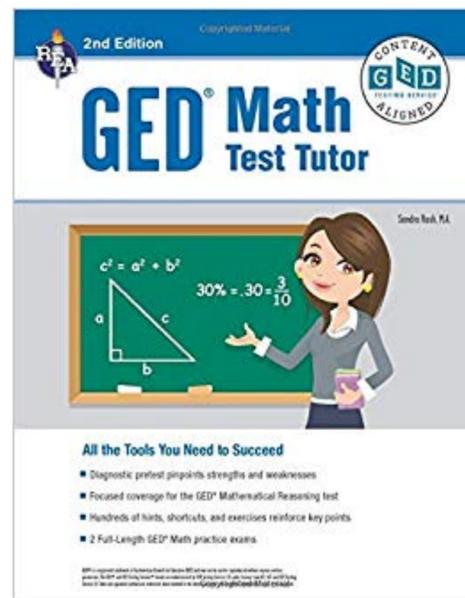
Lack of Education in District 502

Education is extremely important for job security and financial security. There is a direct correlation between the level of education that one has and the chance of finding a satisfactory job. Adults living in District 502 who unfortunately lacked the opportunities to receive a quality education seek to obtain a GED diploma in hopes of increasing the standard of living for them and their families.

“By educational attainment, full-time workers age 25 and over without a high school diploma had median weekly earnings of \$588, compared with \$751 for high school graduates” (Bureau of Labor Statistics 1).



Percentage of occupations for each education level in U.S. job market (Bureau of Labor Statistics)



People Educating People Program

The program is a volunteering component of the adult education and English Language Education classes at the College of DuPage. Their mission is “to equip adult students with confidence and the skills necessary for success in daily life” (College of DuPage 1).

Who takes the classes?

Any adult ages 16 and older who lack a high school diploma, are looking to get a GED diploma, and have good reading skills can take the classes as they require no fees, can be taken at multiple locations including online, and can even be taken in Spanish.

What are the classes about?

There are five classes available that differ based on the subjects tested on the GED exam, these being social studies, math, science, writing, and interpreting literature and art.

What do volunteers do?

Volunteers attend classes and tutor students either one-on-one or in groups. This allows for a two-way learning experience in which the students can maximize their learning in class while the tutor builds upon their communication skills.

My Experience and Results

I attend a second-grade level math class and help three students with questions they have from worksheets or activities. On the last day of my volunteering, I asked them how it has helped them, and they said they can more easily learn the material since they can ask questions to clear up any confusion. Also, they can refresh their minds of the material from a previous class. Overall, they said they feel much more confident in getting their GED with the help of a tutor.

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