



Sunnyvale

Level Up Literacy Adult Literacy Program

October 7, 2024



Overview

- What Is Literacy?
- Why Does Sunnyvale Need an Adult Literacy Program?
- What Does Level Up Literacy Do?
- How We Can Help
- Future of the Program
- Questions?





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What Is Literacy?

What is Literacy?

- Literacy is the ability to read and write
- Literacy affects the day-to-day success of adults in the real world



Literacy Facts

Source: National Center for Education Statistics,
Santa Clara County Library District Foundation

- 23% of the population in California have limited reading skills.
- 1 in 6 adults in Santa Clara County lack basic literacy skills.
- California's dropout rate (**9.6%**) is above the national average—low literacy is one of the main causes of dropout rates.
- Low literacy often leads to unemployment, poverty, and is passed down to children.



Literacy Facts

Source: American Education Research Association



- Having basic literacy does not guarantee one to be competitive in a market.
- Many adults are functionally illiterate.
- Various factors affect low literacy.



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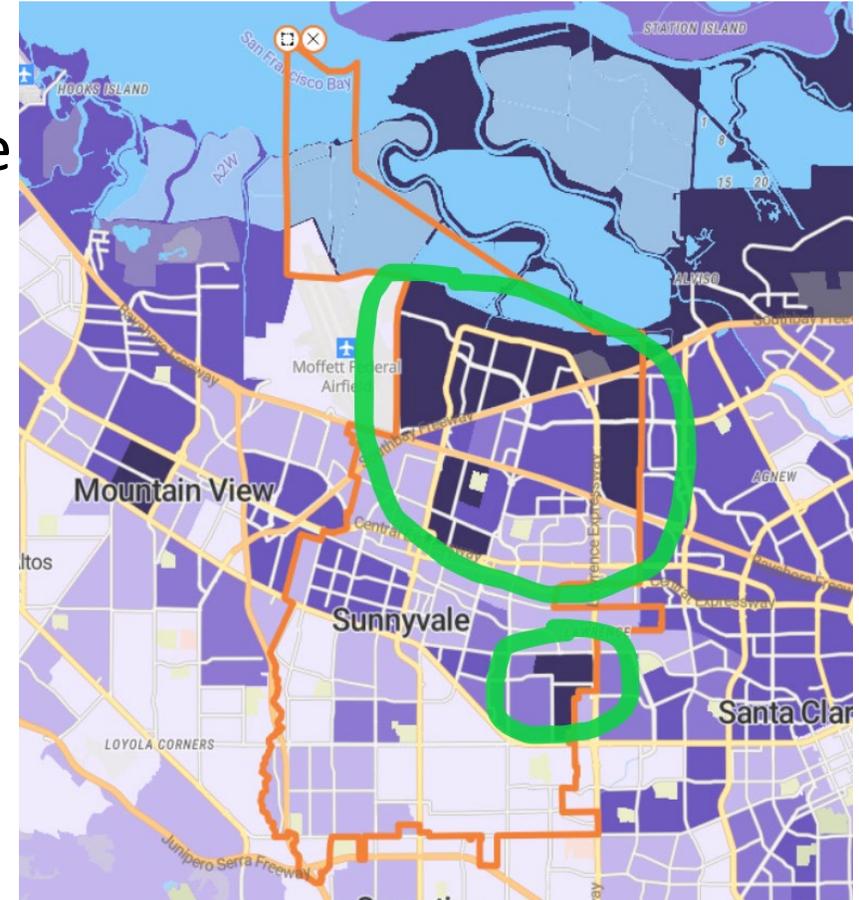
Why Does Sunnyvale Need an Adult Literacy Program?

High School Non-Completion

Source: PolicyMap

In the northern parts of the city:

- ◆ **6.53% to over 10.33%** reported having some high school education but did not earn a diploma
- ◆ **7.62% or more** of residents have less than a 9th-grade education.

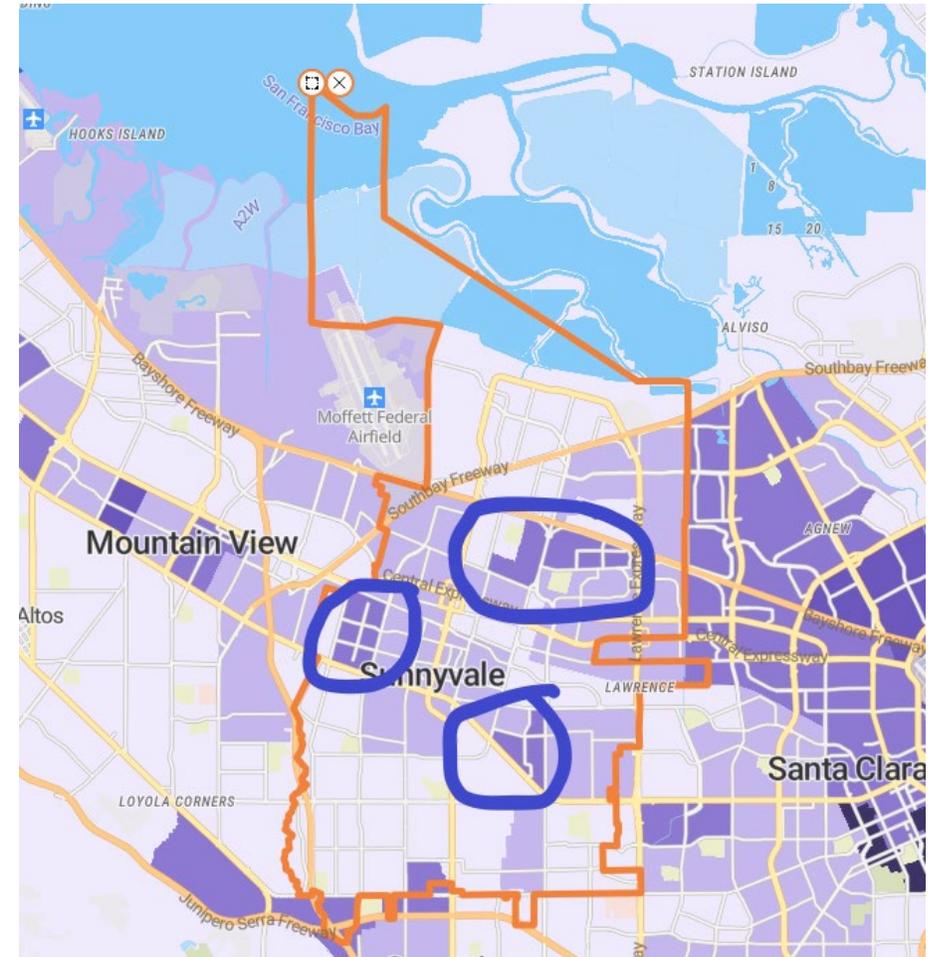


Poverty

Source: PolicyMap

Poverty Rates (2018-2022):

- **8.49% to 13.20%** of people are living in poverty.
- Up to **6.3%** of families in certain areas of the city are experiencing deep poverty.
- Sunnyvale's data shows that poverty and high school noncompletion rates overlap.





What Does Level Up Literacy Do?

Program Goal and Objectives



Mission

Level Up Literacy's goal is for adults to gain literacy skills necessary for success in all aspects of their lives.

Goals and Objectives

- Increase adult literacy in the community
- Enhance employability
- Promote and encourage lifelong learning

Program Details

Program Format

- ◆ One-on-One Tutoring
- ◆ Small Group Sessions
- ◆ Workshops

Program Highlights

- ◆ Tutor Training
- ◆ Learner-Centered Approach
- ◆ Flexible Scheduling
- ◆ Supportive Staff
- ◆ Partnerships with other city programs for referrals (NOVA, local adult schools, COHS, community center, etc.)



Who Do We Serve?



Adults (18 or older) who:

- Currently are not enrolled in high school
- possess basic English skills
- have specific literacy goals
 - ◆ Academic
 - ◆ Job
 - ◆ Family
 - ◆ Personal

Prospective Learner Goals

Currently, there are **18 prospective learners** on the waiting list.

Some of their goals include:

- Improving reading and writing speed
- Earning a GED (COHS)
- Achieving fluency in English and familiarity with American culture (immigrant population)
- Strengthening basic English for better job opportunities



Learner-Tutor Matching Process

Learner intake process includes:

- ◆ In person interview
- ◆ Assessment

When matching with a tutor, we consider compatibility in:

- ◆ Schedule
- ◆ Literacy Level
- ◆ Personality



Where Can Tutors and Learners Meet?

Tutors and learner have flexibility in how they meet, with both in-person and online options available, including:

- Sunnyvale Library
- Local cafes
- Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, or FaceTime





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How We Can Help

Level Up Literacy Tutors

Tutor Progress

How Many?

- Currently 5 tutors either completed training or in training
- More prospective tutors waiting to be interviewed

Tutor Eligibility

- 18 or older
- Completed high school or more
- Can commit to at least 6 months
- Compassionate and patient

Training & Support

Training Details

- ProLiteracy asynchronous training (10-15 hours)
- In person workshops
- Bi-monthly tutor roundtable discussions
- Workshops & webinars for continuous training

Staff Support

- Orientation
- Monthly report & check in



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Future of the Program

Our Plan

Short Term Goals:

- Continue to connect with other local literacy organizations
- Proactively assess demographics we need to reach

Long Term Goals:

- Literacy outpost at Lakewood branch
- Learner and tutor recruitment
- Learner celebration projects (success stories to share)





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Questions?