

# GRASP (Giving Rural Adults a Study Program)

*Educationally disadvantaged adults (21 or older) seeking a HS equivalency diploma; a GED reading level*



*A home-based GED preparatory program for disadvantaged adults:*

- *Participants complete home-study packets of curriculum based on the GED exam.*
- *Completed assignments, testing, and feedback are essential components of the program.*

## Results



- *GRASP has helped increase students' retention rates and positive attitudes.*
- *Many GRASP graduates have enrolled in vocational training programs, evidencing gains in self-confidence and motivation.*

## The Program

Problems such as lack of transportation or child care, shift work, or physical/emotional disabilities make it impossible for a number of adults to attend traditional, on-site classes. GRASP provides an outreach program that delivers individualized home-study packets to adults in their communities via the regional library network.

Although targeted for rural, isolated adults, GRASP can work effectively in any setting. Components include:

- an assessment of candidate's reading, writing, and math skills prior to program entry,
- staff determination of candidate's ability to work independently and devote 6 hours a week to the program,
- home-study packets covering the five GED disciplines prepared twice a month and based on previously completed assignments, and
- a predictor test when students are deemed ready for the exam.

Students may remain in the program until they are test ready, which is usually within 1 year. Curriculum is based on the GED exam and, for staff purposes, all assignments are coded for reading level and average length of time to complete. Testing and feedback are an essential ingredient as there is no direct contact between teacher and student. A comprehensive, easy-to-use record keeping system has been developed.

## Professional Development

A minimum of 1 full day of in-service training is required prior to program implementation. Both an administrator and a teacher should attend. An extensive manual containing curriculum and all forms and assignments developed for GRASP is provided to each site. By completion of training, each site should understand staffing and budget requirements, recruitment, curriculum, and resources.

## Costs & Funding Options

A nominal training fee may be required.

## Learning Standards

Students are prepared for each area of GED testing, including math, language arts, literature, social studies, and science.

## Contact

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