



LEARN

Literacy, Education And
Resource Network

Project Mission:

To provide for the
literacy and
educational needs
of high risk
populations in a
rehabilitative effort
to reduce the
likelihood of
continued
delinquent or
criminal behaviors.

For further information contact:

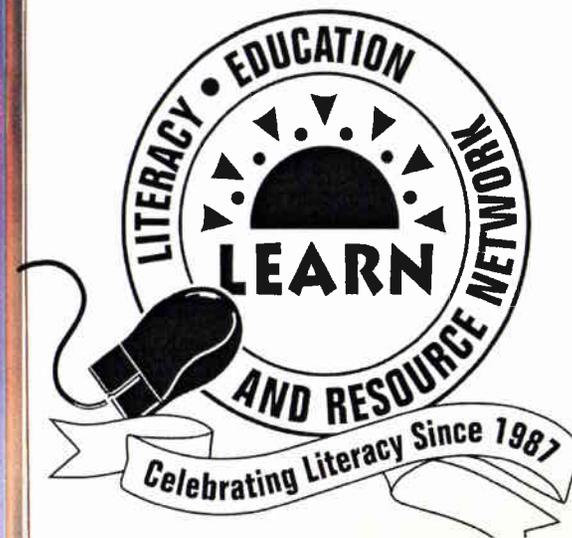
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ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
Administrative Office of the Courts



Project LEARN



Facts About Low Literacy (Level I)

- ⇒ Forty-four million American adults cannot read the poison warnings on a can of pesticide, a letter from a child's teacher, the front page of a daily newspaper, or fill out an application.
- ⇒ Eighteen percent of Arizona's Adult population is at Level I literacy.
- ⇒ Sixteen percent of Maricopa County's population is at Level I literacy.
- ⇒ 100,000 adults in Pima County are at Level I literacy.
- ⇒ The average cost to incarcerate a juvenile offender is approximately \$32,898 per year.
- ⇒ The average cost to maintain an adult offender in prison in Arizona is \$25,500.
- ⇒ Approximately \$145.00 is spent by the Arizona Department of Education for one adult student per year (180 hours of instruction).

Sources: The State of Literacy in America,
National Institute for Literacy (1998)
Arizona Department of Education (2000)
Arizona Department of Corrections (2000)

The LEARN Initiative

Goal:

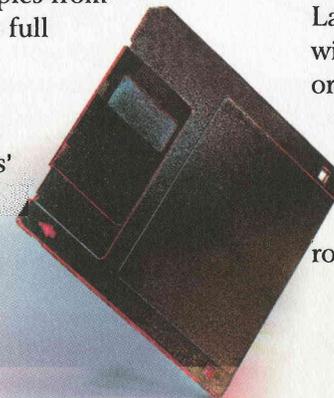
To increase educational opportunities for high-risk youth and adults by promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternative education programs.

Objectives:

- ⇒ To develop computer-based learning centers and implement evaluative measures for their use.
- ⇒ To assist in the development of a basic skills, life skills, and general education program to enhance learning centers and basic literacy.
- ⇒ To develop and provide training, support, and special emphasis programs for learning centers.

Results: Student Success

- ⇒ An average of up to 2.5 grade level gains in reading.
- ⇒ Improvement in writing samples from a simple one-line sentence to full page-long essays.
- ⇒ A positive effect in student attendance at public schools.
- ⇒ A positive change in students' self-image and confidence in their ability to learn.



The History of the LEARN Program in Arizona

A December 1986 Task Force on Adult Illiteracy found:

- ⇒ Over 400,000 Arizonans were functionally illiterate.
- ⇒ Over 500,000 Arizona adults did not have a high school diploma.
- ⇒ 85% of Arizona's prison population did not graduate from high school.

In May 1987, representatives of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and a team of juvenile and adult chief probation officers visited a computerized literacy lab in southern Arizona. Due to that visit and the vision of then Chief Justice Frank X. Gordon and then Deputy Director of the AOC, Dave Byers, a pilot program was begun in September 1987 at Catalina High School in Tucson, Arizona. Five additional sites were installed by April 1988 in a variety of settings including: Coconino County, Pima County Adult Probation, and Maricopa County Literacy Volunteers. Currently, the Court has developed 40 Labs in Arizona. These Labs work in partnership with probation departments, community organizations, educational institutions, and other state agencies. The partnerships share the operational costs. The Court provides hardware, software, training, and data collection for the Labs. The Lab sites provide room, teachers, and on-going operational costs.