High School Foundations Program (HSF)

Purpose: To prepare students for their General Education Degree exam.

Target Group: Students ages 14-17 who are not currently enrolled in a public or private school and whose parents have decided that the GED track would be more appropriate for their child.

Curriculum: The five subject areas covered in High School Foundations are,

1. Language Arts, Writing
2. Language Arts, Reading
3. Social Studies
4. Science
5. Mathematics

HSF gives students a foundation in the 5 subject areas through,

- ✓ academic instruction
- ✓ monthly quizzes
- ✓ in-class experiential learning
- ✓ field studies
- ✓ independent study assignments/homework
- ✓ pre-GED tests every 2 months

Individualized Instruction and Support

An important component in HSF is small class size. The current ratio of student to teacher is 8 to 1. This allows a teacher to develop an academic bond with the student. The teacher understands the learning challenges of each student and can address these challenges quickly, in a friendly and caring atmosphere.

The benefit of the small class size, is that the teacher can develop developmentally appropriate instruction materials for each student.

How does High School Foundations (HSF), differ from GED classes?

Often students who attend our High School Foundations classes are under 16 years old. A student must be 16 to write the GED exam.

Many of the students who enroll in HSF do not have the background and foundation in the five subject areas to effectively move into our GED classes. (GED classes cater more

toward those that are 16 and are working on their test skills. They already have a foundation in the 5 subject areas and are scoring close to, if not above the GED passing level of 450).

Science

Part of High school Foundations for our 2007/08 Fiscal year has been the introduction of Marine Science as the foundation of the HSF science curriculum.
The goal is to combine experiential learning through interaction with our marine environment while covering the fundamental principles of science.
The two components of the marine science curriculum include,

1. The Fluid Earth
2. The Living Ocean

Table 1 below outlines the learning components covered in the science curriculum.

The Fluid Earth	The Living Ocean
Geography Geology Ocean circulation Properties of liquids States of matter Buoyancy, density Pressure Wave physics Sand studies Seawater chemistry Water cycle Acid rain Field studies Coastal dynamics-erosion Greenhouse effect Ocean minerals Transportation Seafloor mapping Satellite oceanography Ocean engineering Diving technology Mineral resources Careers	Vertebrate anatomy and physiology Classification of organisms Vertebrate form and function Vertebrate behavior Invertebrate survey of phyla Invertebrate anatomy and physiology Invertebrate form and function Invertebrate behavior Plant struture and function Comparison of land and sea plants Zones, niches Global cycles Field studies Food webs Energy budget Systems diagrams Food resources Biotechnologies Aquaculture, mariculture Fisheries Careers