



## America Reads- Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What is America Reads?*** The America Reads Challenge is a grassroots national campaign, initiated by the Clinton administration in 1997. The America Reads Challenge encourages states and communities to form literacy partnerships among schools, libraries, youth-serving groups, businesses, public and private agencies, and other community based organizations. The America Reads Challenge asks every American to help all children learn to read, including English Language Learners and students with disabilities.

Estrella Mountain Community College serves as the employer for students placed as tutors in the public schools and handles the payroll, but the individual schools perform their own screening and background checks, and supervise the students on-site. Students, who receive pay for their services, will do so through the federal Work-Study program. America Reads student participants will perform tutoring activities in a variety of ways, primarily one-on-one, but also in small groups and in classroom activities, assisting reading support teachers, and helping in after-school and Saturday special classes.

- ***Why should you participate in the AR Program?*** There are many reasons to be an America Reads tutor! Make a difference in a child's life by giving them the gift of reading; learn skills that will help you as a parent, friend, and grandparent later in life; enhance your resume; be part of an important national initiative; make an invaluable contribution to our community by getting children on the right track; have fun; gain work experience; feel great for the difference you can make!
- ***What schools are eligible?*** Cartwright Elementary School District No. 83, Fowler Elementary, Glendale Elementary District, Union School District, Litchfield Elementary School District, Dysart Unified School District No. 89, Liberty Elementary School, Rancho Santa Fe School, Avondale Elementary School, Buckeye Elementary School, St. John Vianney School, Ruth Fisher Elementary School, Littleton Elementary School, Pendergast Elementary School, Union School District, Tolleson School District
- ***What is the time commitment?*** The student is asked to complete 20-30 hours in a k-3 learning environment assisting children with their reading skills.
- ***How do I know if I am eligible for Work-Study funding?*** Contact the Financial Aid Department at 623-935-8888 to see if you are eligible for Federal Work-study funding.