

RAJWINDER BAINS



Central Nine Adult Education Success Story
From ELL Level 1 to High School Equivalency (HSE)

Starting with Only “Yes” and “No”

When Rajwinder Bains first moved to the United States, she barely knew how to say “yes” or “no” in English. Although she had earned a high school diploma and completed college coursework in the Arts in India, she found herself unable to communicate in everyday situations. Like many of her friends, she stayed home and did not attend school. Everyday tasks felt overwhelming—making appointments, understanding school information for her son, speaking with doctors, and even grocery shopping.

Despite these challenges, Rajwinder already carried something powerful with her: a strong educational foundation and a deep respect for learning. She knew she was capable of more, and she believed that gaining English skills would open doors not only for herself, but also for her family and her future.

Two life-changing moments pushed Rajwinder to take a brave step forward

During a doctor’s visit for her son, her husband, who usually helped with the translation, was out of town. The doctor asked which pharmacy she used, but Rajwinder could not understand the question about her son’s medicine.

In another moment, while giving birth to her second son without a translator, a doctor asked if she needed a certain procedure done for her baby. Not knowing what was being asked, she said yes. The doctor later realized she did not understand and had to draw pictures to explain the procedure. That moment made Rajwinder realize how vulnerable she was without English.

“I realized I needed to learn English so I could understand and make decisions for myself and my children.”

Beginning the Journey

“In 2012, Rajwinder began her journey at Central Nine Adult Education. She started in ELL Levels 1-2 and steadily progressed through ELL Levels 3-4, Transitions, Digital Literacy, Online HSE, and now in-person HSE classes.

For more than a decade, Rajwinder has continued returning to class whenever she is able.

RAJWINDER BAINS



Central Nine Adult Education Success Story
From ELL Level 1 to High School Equivalency (HSE)

Balancing Life, Work, and School

“Rajwinder worked full time, raised a family, cooked, and studied—sometimes coming to class on only two hours of sleep. She spent countless hours practicing on Essential Education and IXL. Even when life required her to take breaks from classes, she always returned. She never gave up.

Learning English opened doors to employment, including positions at Ulta Beauty (where Central Nine offered on-site ELL classes that she attended) and Amazon.

Today, Rajwinder has begun HiSET testing and has already passed one section.

Mentor, Advocate, and Role Model

Beyond her own accomplishments, Rajwinder is a mentor in both her classes and her community. She encourages friends, family members, and classmates to learn English, attend school, and never give up.

“I tell my friends, if we live in the U.S., we should learn English. Central Nine is helpful and supportive.”

Rajwinder wants others to be able to make appointments, help their children, work, and communicate with confidence. Her journey is a powerful example of perseverance, courage, and personal growth.

Thank you, Rajwinder, for being an inspiration, advocate, and leader at Central Nine Adult Education.