



SEATTLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Volunteer Handbook

Created by the Office for Community Learning

Welcome and Thank You!

Thank you for volunteering in Seattle Public Schools. You are making an important contribution to our school district and its students, and we want you to know that we value your time, energy and expertise.

This is an exciting time for our District. The reforms of the last several years are transforming our school system, allowing us to focus on individualizing and personalizing instruction for every child we serve.

Our work has been driven by a crystal-clear mission—academic achievement for every student in every school. Our District has rigorous academic standards that clearly set out what students should know and be able to do as they progress through school. We have professional practice standards for teachers that capture the essence of quality instruction, and we have leadership standards for principals that reflect the very best in research-based practice.

We are preparing our students to thrive in a world that will be far different from the one we know today. If they are to reach their full potential, the schools that educate them must transform themselves. The schools must look, feel and operate differently than they ever have.

That is why your commitment is so important. Schools cannot do this work alone. So please explore the many ways to become involved in educating and supporting Seattle students. Celebrate the written word by reading to a child or having a child read to you. Tutor a student struggling with math, sponsor an event, coach a team or join a school advisory group. Whatever your interests or talents, there is vital work for you to do in our schools. Thank you for helping.

*Handbook created by Colin Sexton and Trisha Matthieu
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Seattle Public Schools

(Based on data from October, 2001)

Serves close to 47,000 students

- ❖ Consists of 101 schools
 - 61 elementary schools
 - 10 middle schools
 - 10 high schools
 - 20 alternative schools
- ❖ Diverse Student Population
 - 23% African-American
 - 3% American Indian
 - 23% Asian
 - 11% Chicano/Latino
 - 40% White
- ❖ 41% of the student population is not living with both parents.
- ❖ 40% of the student population is eligible for a free or reduced price lunch.
- ❖ 14% of the student population is enrolled in Special Education programs.
- ❖ 22% of the student population is bilingual, and 14% have limited proficiency in English.



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As a volunteer in Seattle Public Schools, it is important for you to know that we are a large school district with many resources and challenges. The students you work with will look different and have different life experiences than you. Many come from single parent or low-income households, and have special educational needs.

Goals of the Volunteer Program

Seattle Public Schools are committed to delivering on the dream of academic achievement for every student in every school. Volunteer programs will:

- ❖ Enrich the curriculum.
- ❖ Enhance children's learning opportunities.
- ❖ Provide help for individual children.
- ❖ Increase students' self-esteem and motivation to learn.
- ❖ Provide satisfying opportunities for adults to make a lasting contribution to children and schools.
- ❖ Assist teachers and other staff.
- ❖ Establish and strengthen community partnerships for quality education.
- ❖ Support efforts to achieve district academic standards.