Why Volunteer in Your Child’s School?

• Higher Grades, Test Scores & Graduation Rates
• Better Attendance
• Increased Motivation & Self-Esteem*

* Search for "Parental Involvement in Schools" at https://www.childtrends.org

“Volunteering is a way to make a direct contribution to something I care deeply about: education. As I strive to make a positive impact on students, I also gain a sense of community and partnership with teachers and families. Best of all, I get a delightful peek into my children’s day!”

Kaori Tanaka, Volunteer 
Thornton Creek Elementary School

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

How to apply to volunteer with Seattle Public Schools

www.seattleschools.org/volunteer

NEW VOLUNTEER CHECK LIST

Visit our Volunteer Website to:
• Review Volunteer Handbook
• Complete Online Training

Apply Securely Online

Photo ID and Background Check Required

Allow Two Weeks for the School to Review Your Application

Questions? Contact Your School Office
KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
Nationally, one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before age 18.

Volunteers help to protect children by learning to recognize and report potential abuse.
Complete our free 17-minute Sexual Misconduct Prevention training available on the SPS volunteer website before you begin your online volunteer application.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK
If you have lived in Washington State for the past three (3) years, SPS will run your state background check at no cost to you.

If you came to Washington from another state in the past three years, you will need to purchase a one-time national background check ($21 fee).

New or newly returned to the U.S.? Visit our website for additional resources.

Why is there a fee for the national background check?
Unlike our state, the federal government does not provide schools with free screening tools. SPS selected an online vendor to offer affordable national and international background checks for volunteers ($21 in most cases).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I completed this process last fall. Do I have to reapply to volunteer this year?
A: If your online application was approved last year, you are good to go for another school year. On your second volunteer anniversary we will ask your permission to run a new background check – that’s it!

Q: Can I use my smart phone to apply?
A: We recommend using devices with larger screens, or visiting the local library if you don’t have those in your home.

SPORTS SAFETY
All gym and sports volunteers must be current on CPR, First Aid, Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion Courses.

FIELD TRIPS
Field trip volunteers supervise students. Complete the Chaperone Form to learn about field trip safety and your important responsibilities. Sign and submit the form at least two (2) weeks before the trip.