



Volunteer MPS

Minneapolis Community Education

Talking Points

- 1. The Office of Volunteer MPS is the “Minneapolis Address for Connecting K-12 Students with Adults.”**
 - If you want to tutor or mentor in the Minneapolis Public Schools, we can connect you to the right opportunity for you.
 - If you are part of an organization and you want training to support and/or improve your partnership with a school, we are the place to go.
 - The Volunteer Services Office helps schools leverage their volunteer effectiveness by recruiting and providing training for volunteers and technical support to the school volunteer coordinator.
- 2. The Three Main Functions of the Office of Volunteer MPS.**
 - **Volunteer Referrals:** We connect over 400 energized volunteers a year (through our web site and telephone referral service) to thousands of volunteer opportunities in over 100 schools in Minneapolis.
 - **Higher Education Institutions:** The institutions of higher education benefit greatly and rely heavily on the management of the Volunteer MPS Office to meet MN State mandates for teacher licensure for pre-service teachers.
 - **Technical Assistance and Training:** The Office of Volunteer MPS provides training and resources for school volunteer coordinators, risk management for the district, and training for volunteers.
- 3. We are looking for help.**
 - The Office of Volunteer MPS is partially funded by the Minneapolis Public Schools and relies on additional financial support from the community. WISE Resource Volunteers is the 501c3 non-profit arm of Volunteer MPS that raises money to support the program. Due to the drastic budget cuts in the Minneapolis Public Schools (over \$55M in two years) the Office of Volunteer MPS has to raise \$45,000 to sustain current services at a time when the need and demand for volunteers to tutor and mentor students has increased.



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Mission Statement: *Volunteer MPS exists to positively affect the learning and achievement of students of all ages in the Minneapolis Public Schools by providing trained volunteers and providing meaningful opportunities for community members to support teachers.*

Target audience

- Listeners to KBEM Radio
- Minneapolis Public Schools staff
- Parents
- Volunteers
- Current supporters

Possible themes

- Investments – your time and money now are an investment in the future, time spent with a caring adult tutor/mentor leads to productive citizen-prevents future jail inmates
- Visual image of prism or inverted pyramid – by tutoring/mentoring you are lifting up/supporting young people
- Bridge – volunteer tutors are the bridge that helps students navigate through school successfully. They help them cross the water, ravine – get from one side to the other – bridging the gap, tutors are building the planks for the bridge. If bridge isn't there students fall into the water.