

## Inspiring Minds In-School Tutoring and Mentoring Program

### About Inspiring Minds

Inspiring Minds is a non-profit education agency founded in 1963 dedicated to providing the educational and social support students need to succeed.

### What is In-School Tutoring and Mentoring?

Volunteers are matched with students in small groups to develop a trusting relationship and to engage in structured activities, often around classroom or homework-related topics. Volunteers meet with students at least one time each week.



### The In-School Tutoring and Mentoring program goals are as follows:

*To foster academic achievement by:*

- Helping students maintain or exceed expectations in reading and early math skills
- Providing individual support and extra attention
- Developing students' personal organizational skills and time management skills
- Supporting students to self-evaluate their progress and develop confidence

*To increase student engagement in the learning process by encouraging students to think about:*

- Their own learning and thinking processes and challenge them to articulate the way they have gone about learning
- What their next steps might be and how they are going to proceed with those next steps
- How they are going to know they have achieved success
- Whether or not the method of learning was effective
- What they need more help to understand and how they might better achieve understanding

*To serve diverse student populations, reducing barriers for student success by responding to their unique learning needs.*

- Matching children in small groups with caring adults from their community within a structured relationship
- Enhancing safe and supportive schools through consistency and personalization
- Creating a link between schools and the community

“She helps us learn and explains if I don’t understand. She wants us to learn because she loves us.”- A 4<sup>th</sup> grade student.

### What is the impact?

Henderson and Mapp (2002) report evidence that volunteers can be significant resources in helping to create a supporting and welcoming environment at schools. As positive role models and student motivators, volunteers are viewed as contributing to better school attendance, improved grades and test scores, and better social skills. In 2017-2018, Inspiring Minds had 525 volunteers supporting students for 12,155 hours in 17 schools. 96% of our teachers report tutors are positively impacting student confidence.

## How can I get involved?

*Community Members:* It's easy. Complete an application online through our online volunteer management system, [Give Pulse](#), by clicking "Become a Member". If access to a phone or computer is restrictive for you, or if you are uncomfortable with using an online volunteer management system, please come by our office at 763 Westminster Street, Providence or contact us by phone or email [inspire@inspiringminds.org](mailto:inspire@inspiringminds.org) and we will help.

Volunteers must provide references and complete a background check. After acceptance, volunteers will attend a 90 minute orientation and then be matched with a classroom and students that need your support. Additional trainings and workshops are available throughout the year.

*Providence Teachers:* It's easy. Each school we work with has a liaison who will facilitate your request. Ask your principal for more information.

## How does In-School Tutoring and Mentoring operate?

After training and placement is complete, the volunteers arrive at the school and sign in and pick up their ID badge. Then the volunteer heads to the classroom. While there, the volunteer will tutor and mentor students with curriculum provided by the school or Inspiring Minds. After the session is complete, the volunteer will sign out in the school office. The volunteer will also receive a reminder email to note their impact for the day and let us know how everything went.

## How is a child selected for the In-School Tutoring and Mentoring Program?

Students selected for tutoring are determined by their classroom teacher. If you are a parent, please discuss our tutoring/mentoring program with your child's teacher.

## What does a school have to do?

Principals must agree to have an Inspiring Minds volunteer in their school. Classroom teachers must commit to our guidelines and provide clear directions and communicate regularly with volunteers.

Each school works with volunteers a little differently, but there are a few guidelines:

- Volunteers must work directly with students, one-on-one or in small groups.
- Every volunteer must complete the appropriate background checks and be cleared by Inspiring Minds.
- Volunteers must never be alone with students. That means they must be supervised by a PPSD staff member at all times.

## A Tutor/Mentor

Provides positive, structured, consistent weekly attention to a group of 3 to 4 students.

Builds a relationship with the children.

Makes a commitment to volunteer for at least two quarters.

Supports the goals of fostering academic achievement, increasing student engagement in the learning process and to reducing barriers to student achievement.



## Additional Questions?

Call us at: 401-274-3240

Email us at [inspire@inspiringmindsri.org](mailto:inspire@inspiringmindsri.org)

Check out our website: [inspiringmindsri.org](http://inspiringmindsri.org)

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