



## Volunteer Information

Reading is the skill by which students get information from books, computers, worksheets and boards to learn math, science, literature, social studies, and more. Over 85% of curriculum is taught through reading, making it the foundational skill for academic success. The first milestone in reading proficiency comes at the end of third grade because this is the point when students need to transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Only 51% of Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students achieved college- and career-ready reading proficiency scores on the 2018-19 End-of-Grade tests (the most current data available). Students not achieving this milestone tend to struggle throughout their academic career as research has shown that 73% of these students never catch up and are 4-6 times more likely to drop out of school in comparison to proficient readers.

This is why the Cabarrus County Education Foundation (CCEF) and CCS are partnering to address this need. Our schools have made improvements but even with all of their efforts, more is still needed which is why CCEF is beginning this pilot program. Research has proven conclusively that tutoring and mentoring increases reading proficiency an extra 2-4 months at minimum.

We invite you to review the following volunteer profile to better understand this opportunity to invest in a student and to make a difference now that affects our community's very future!

### Responsibilities

- Meet with mentee student during the school day 1-2 times weekly according to your commitment
- Build a relationship with your assigned student
- Complete prescribed relationship building and reading activities with the student as assigned
- Provide feedback regularly to onsite Program Coordinator
- If working in partnership with another volunteer, please communicate any necessary updates
- Attend all required training sessions
- Be an ambassador for the importance of reading with your student and the community
- Communicate to Program Coordinator any conflicts with meeting your commitment

### Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age and not currently in high school
- Must live or work in Cabarrus County or surrounding area
- Must be willing to travel to either Rocky River or Wolf Meadow Elementary Schools for the 2021-2022 school year
- Must pass Cabarrus County Schools' Volunteer Background Check
- Must attend an orientation/training session(s) which will be scheduled in late September (dates TBA)
- Must commit to one or two volunteer sessions a week, when schools are in session, from Oct-May
- Must adhere to all health and safety protocols set by the school district

## **Expectations**

- Please be aware that the 2021-22 school year is the pilot year of the Reading+Mentoring 4 Success program. There may be start-up delays or changes in details as we strive to hit the ground running! Please be courteous and flexible.
- Provide complete information for your background check.
- Complete all training sessions. This may be a combination of in-person and virtual.
- Because you are playing such a critical role in supporting a student's academic development, we will ask you to sign a Volunteer Commitment Form. We do understand circumstances may change but ask for this formal commitment as having a consistent mentor is incredibly important for student success.
- Commit to up to 45-minute sessions with your student to complete activities.
- Review lesson plan prior to mentoring session.
- Please arrive at the school early enough to check-in with the office and be in the assigned location at the start of the scheduled mentoring session. Timeframes for students' participation will be very precise and to ensure students receive full benefits from the sessions, they must start and end on time.
- Take an interest in your student and build a relationship with them.
- During the school year, you will meet with your student at least 25 different weeks and according to the number of times per week you committed. For the program to be successful, consistency with the mentor is key.
- Provide at least a 24-hour notice to the Program Coordinator if you will not be able to attend a scheduled session. We realize a mentor might need to miss a session or two due to unforeseen circumstances, but we do ask you to try to honor your commitment for the sake of the students.
- Our Program Coordinators are here to support you. Be willing to ask questions and openly receive feedback from coordinators. The Program Coordinator will be monitoring mentoring sessions.
- Because you will be regularly meeting with your student, please communicate any concerns brought to you from the student to the Program Coordinator as soon as possible.
- Only visit schools during your assigned timeframe for volunteering unless previously approved by the Program Coordinator at least 24 hours in advance.

## **The Process to Volunteer**

- Register your interest to serve by completing the Volunteer Application form at the link below.
- You will receive an email acknowledging the receipt of your application and how to complete the CCS' Volunteer Background Process.
- After the background check is completed, the Program Coordinator will communicate your approval and provide information regarding volunteer training.
- Complete training modules and attend onsite orientation.
- Sign your Volunteer Commitment Form during the onsite orientation.
- Mentoring sessions will begin as soon as possible after October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Time Commitment**

- If volunteering 1 time per week, 1-1.25 hours per week not including travel time.
- If volunteering 2 times per week, 2-2.5 hours per week not including travel time.