

“ She has really come out of her shell. She has gained confidence and academic skills this school year! She enjoys one-on-one attention with adults and looks forward to her Power Lunch sessions! ”

— Teacher, Blackstone Elementary School



## POWER LUNCH FAQ

### *For Schools*

#### **What is the impact of the program on students?**

Teachers who have students in the program have reported a number of benefits. They report improvements in attendance, eye contact, interaction with peers, self-esteem, attitudes, behavioral issues and academic performance. They have also seen increases in communication, enthusiasm for reading and overall self-confidence.

#### **How do I nominate a child for Power Lunch?**

Based on the number of volunteers available, teachers are asked at the beginning of the year which students they would like to nominate for Power Lunch. They may wish to do so for any of a number of reasons, including:

- the student requires more 1:1 attention
- the student is a non-native English speaker
- the student is not very enthusiastic about reading
- the student needs more self-confidence in reading
- the student needs more overall self-confidence
- the student is an advanced reader and needs more of a challenge

Boston Partners in Education will then match the students with reading mentors. Please note that while Boston Partners in Education's Power Lunch program accepts students in kindergarten through third grades, the program is most effective if it is begun in kindergarten or first grade and followed all three to four years. Therefore, the bulk of the new students brought into Power Lunch will be K-1. If you know of a student who is not a first grader, but who you feel would greatly benefit from the program, please contact the Program Manager.

#### **Where do the volunteer reading mentors come from and what is their role?**

Volunteer reading mentors for the Power Lunch program come from our corporate partners. Their participation is endorsed by their employer. Currently, 22 area corporations participate in Boston Partners in Education's Power Lunch program, including Abt Associates, Bingham McCutchen LLP, JP Morgan Chase, State Street Corporation, and Westfield Capital Management. These reading mentors provide guidance and encouragement to the students with whom they are matched. Mentors in the Power Lunch program are not expected to teach their students to read; they are role models who encourage an enthusiasm for books and reading.

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**A** is for Aspirations!

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**What is the screening process?**

All reading mentors are screened according to the guidelines created by Boston Partners in Education for the Boston Public Schools. Volunteers are interviewed and must complete training in literacy mentoring. Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sexual Offender Registry Information (SORI) background checks will be conducted annually on all volunteers prior to placement.

**What is the school's commitment?**

- Provide a quiet space for the program during lunchtime (classrooms, library, etc)
- Work with Boston Partners in Education to identify students for the program
- Provide Site Coordinator with a phone to use
- Work with Boston Partners in Education to keep teachers informed about Power Lunch
- Complete periodic evaluations of the program.
- Principal and teachers will participate in volunteer recognition and acknowledge Boston Partners in Education as a school partner when appropriate in both written and verbal communications

**How is the program monitored?**

Power Lunch is managed by the Boston Partners in Education staff. A Power Lunch Site Coordinator is present at the school each day that Power Lunch runs. A Site Coordinator's responsibilities include coordinating the daily meetings between the volunteers and the students, (this includes taking student attendance, picking up lunches, and ensuring that everyone has a place to read), enforcing the program guidelines, trouble-shooting problems, and ensuring that volunteers and students are satisfied with their Power Lunch meetings. Site Coordinators also make it a priority to ensure that teachers are happy with the program and that their needs are being met. The Power Lunch Site Coordinator reports to the Power Lunch Manager, providing consistent updates and participating in regular meetings at the school. The program manager oversees the Power Lunch program in all of the schools.

**Which schools participate in Power Lunch?**

Boston Partners in Education will place volunteers in a participating school that is convenient to their office. There are eight schools currently participating in the Power Lunch program:

- Blackstone Elementary School in the South End
- Gardner Pilot Academy in Allston
- Hennigan Elementary School in Jamaica Plain
- Hurley K-8 School the South End
- McKay K-8 School in East Boston
- Perry K-8 School in South Boston
- Quincy Elementary School in Chinatown
- Russell Elementary School in Dorchester

For more information on Boston Partners in Education's Power Lunch, please contact:

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