

“ 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



POWER LUNCH FAQ

For Volunteers

What is the impact of Power Lunch 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 increased communication, enthusiasm for reading, and overall self-confidence.

What does a reading mentor do?

Mentors provide guidance and encouragement to the students with whom they are matched. Mentors in Boston Partners in Education's Power Lunch mentors are not expected to teach their students to read; they are role models who encourage an enthusiasm for books and reading by reading aloud.

How old are the students that Power Lunch serves?

Power Lunch serves students in kindergarten through third grade.

What is the time commitment?

Power Lunch meets weekly for one hour throughout the school year. Those who cannot make a weekly commitment may alternate with another volunteer from their organization, which will allow them to come to Power Lunch every other week. Please keep in mind that a stronger relationship can be built with consistent weekly participation. Mentors are asked to commit for the duration of the school year, and are encouraged to work with the same student for all three to four years of the program.

How are students selected to participate in 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

(over)

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. A Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sexual Offender Record Information (SORI) background check will be conducted annually for all volunteers prior to placement.

Is lunch provided for the volunteers?

Unfortunately, no. Due to potential student food allergies of which we may be unaware, we ask that volunteers refrain from bringing food to Power Lunch.

Who do I contact if I have a question or a problem?

There are two members of the Boston Partners in Education staff available to you if you have a concern. First, a Site Coordinator is present at the school each day the program runs. This person is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of Power Lunch at a particular school. This is the person to contact if you are going to be late, need to reschedule, or have an immediate question or problem to be addressed. There is also a Program Manager who oversees Power Lunch in all of the schools. Please contact this person with any other questions or concerns.

How do I cancel if I cannot make a session?

Every school involved with Power Lunch has a voicemail (617.385.3994) that the Site Coordinator will check on the days that Power Lunch runs. Leave a message on this voicemail letting the Site Coordinator know that you cannot attend and on which day you would like to reschedule. Remember that the Site Coordinator only checks the voicemail on the days that the school has Power Lunch.

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 Power Lunch:

- 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

Which corporations are involved in Power Lunch?

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.

Please note that we are always looking for new corporations to participate in Power Lunch in order to improve our service to students at the Boston Public Schools.

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

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