

“What impresses me most about the students in the Math Rules! is that the kids meet me more than halfway; they really want to get their hands around the material and they really seem to value my approval because of the relationship we've formed.”

-- Robert, Math Rules! Volunteer at the Marshall Elementary School



## MATH RULES! FAQs

### *For Schools*

#### **Who trains the volunteer academic mentors in Investigations?**

All training takes place at Boston Partners in Education by the training manager, Marc Saunders.

#### **What do the academic mentors learn in this training?**

The training introduces volunteers to the current curriculum used in the Boston Public Schools. They practice word problems, review student work, and play interactive math games in groups. Volunteers are well prepared to help students strengthen their math skills through effective tutoring and support.

#### **Who are the academic mentors?**

They are trained individuals with valuable time to offer, who are comfortable with the subject of math. Before placement, a CORI and SORI check is done on each volunteer, and is conducted annually. Volunteers are encouraged to devote at least one hour a week to the program for the duration of the academic year.

#### **Which students are good candidates for this program?**

Students who have scored “**high needs improvement**” on the math MCAS are good examples of which students to nominate. They are students who are willing and want help from an academic mentor, and need just a little boost. This program enables teachers to give more attention to the students in greater need.

#### **How many students may I nominate?**

At first, we are asking that you nominate up to four students for the program. As we recruit and train more volunteers, you may nominate more students.

#### **There are distractions in the classroom. Can the volunteer and students work in the hallway?**

Because of the design of the program, it benefits students most to stay in their small group within the classroom. Volunteers who have had the opportunity to stay in the classroom for the entire period have found this method beneficial.

(more)

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**Why does the mentor stay with the same students for the entire year or multiple years?**

Research shows that the presence of a mentor in a child's life helps improve the self-confidence and love of learning in both students and mentors. Matching students with the same mentor for multiple years builds stability and consistency into the mentoring relationship, improves self-confidence, academic achievement, and investment in school.

**May I ask the mentor to do other tasks in the classroom?**

No. Math Rules! mentors have signed up for this program because they feel strongly about the subject. If you wish to have a volunteer in your classroom for any other subject, please contact Barbara Harris at Boston Partners in Education. Barbara can be reached at bharris@bostonpartners.org or call her at 617.451.6145.

**Is there anyone at the school that I can contact if I have any questions?**

There will be either a Boston Partners site coordinator or a contact at the school that will be able to answer questions.

**How do I nominate a student?**

You will fill out a nomination form for each student giving us as much information about the student as possible. Reasons to nominate a student include:

- The student needs help improving his/her academic and social skills.
- The student needs more self-confidence both in and out of the classroom.
- The student's attitude toward school needs improvement

**What do I need to do?**

- Nominate the proper students to the program
- Ensure that each student returns the permission slip prior to placement. A Site Coordinator or other contact person will collect the slips.
- Set aside time to communicate with volunteers
- Alert Site Coordinators and volunteers ahead of time to any absences of Math Rules! students or changes in the day's schedule such as field trips, assemblies etc.
- Complete the online survey sent to you at the beginning and end of the year.

**If a student moves, may I nominate another?**

You may nominate another student; his or her permission slip must be returned before the student begins to work with the volunteer.

**Whom do I contact if a volunteer does not show up?**

Volunteers should be in contact with the Site Coordinator. After taking attendance each day, the coordinator will inform the teachers if a volunteer will not be at class that day. If you have not been in contact with a Site Coordinator and have not heard anything from a volunteer, please contact Wendy Beninati at wbeninati@bostonpartners.org. A phone call will be made to check in with the volunteer.

**If you have any questions please contact**

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