



Best Practices Case Study

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Editor's note: Kansas Partners in Education provides case studies as an educational service to KSPE members, affiliates, their organizations, and prospective partners.

Benefits of Volunteering

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Volunteers, tutors, and mentors are an important part of Wichita Public Schools educational team. It takes an exceptional person to give his or her time and energy to help make our school district stronger. We value and appreciate volunteers' commitment to USD 259.

School volunteers and mentors provide assistance to students, help staff better meet the needs of students, and develop closer ties between schools and community.

Benefits for the Students

- Enriched learning experiences
- Opportunities for exploration
- Additional individualized and personalized attention
- Learning reinforcement
- Increased motivation and improved self-concept
- Positive adult role models

Benefits for the School

- Additional services without extra cost
- Released teacher time to provide additional instructional time
- Improved student achievement, attitude and behavior
- Community support
- Parent understanding and cooperation
- Positive public relations and community attitude toward the educational system

Benefits for the Community

- Better quality education
- More responsive school system
- Added pride and confidence in educational system
- Better educated students

Benefits for the Volunteer

- Assisting students to achieve
- Sharing knowledge and talents
- Knowing that you are needed and valued
- Becoming more involved in the school and community
- Providing active support for quality

According to the Points of Life Institute, the value of one volunteer hour is \$20.25. For public schools, the sustained work necessary to recruit, train, and retain volunteers is well worth it considering the contributions volunteers make on behalf of students, schools, and the community.

Do you have ideas and activities to share? Please send them on the Kansas Partners in Education list serve by entering the following e-mail address in the "TO" line of an e-mail message: kspartners@listserve.com. Or send your information to info@kspartners.org and we will help you with a case study.

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