



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I've never worked with kids before, can someone help me?**

Absolutely! Our experienced program staff have resources to help you engage your student.

### **How Much Of A Time Commitment Is Power Lunch?**

*Less than 30 hours a year! And if you work with a partner, it's just 15 hours of reading.*

The Power Lunch program usually kicks off in late September and runs through the end of May. Reading sessions take place once a week during the student's lunch and recess period. If school is closed, then reading sessions are cancelled. So mentors that start at the beginning of the program year will volunteer for approximately 30 hours. But since we bring new mentors on all the way through March, the actual time commitment depends on a volunteer's individual start date.

### **What Time Does The Power Lunch Reading Session Take Place? What Days?**

Power Lunch reading sessions are held during the student's lunch and recess period. The actual timing varies depending on the school and on the student's grade. *Generally speaking, most reading sessions will take place between 11:00am and 1:00pm*

Generally Most of our Power Lunch schools hold reading sessions 5 days a week. At the moment, the only exceptions are:

Amidon-Bowen: Reading sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Savoy: Reading sessions on Tuesday and Thursday.

### **What if I can't attend one of my regular reading sessions? What happens when school is closed?**

We have program staff at each Power Lunch school ready to assist our mentors if they need to cancel or reschedule a reading session. In addition, Power Lunch does not take place when school is closed or when there is an early release day.

### **What If I Select Certain Days I Think I Am Available And Then My Schedule Changes? Or What If I Can't Come On My Regular Day?**

We understand that things change. That's why our Power Lunch program team will reach out to make sure a specific day and time works for you before being matched with a student. They will also be available if you need to cancel a regular reading day or look to reschedule for a different day during that same week.

# When Adults Read With Children **EVERYBODY WINS!**

## **What If I Don't Think I Can Commit To Reading Every Week?**

If you don't think you can commit to a regular weekly session, you can sign up with a partner alternate reading sessions. For many this means shared reading responsibilities with a co-worker. If you don't have a co-worker that can serve as a partner, we can help find one for you!

## **What are the steps I need to take to become a Power Lunch Reading Mentor?**

First step is to fill out our Reading Mentor Application, available at <https://everybodywinsdc.org/intro-application>. This will start the process and make sure we can follow up about next steps. For those interested reading at a DCPS school, you will need to also complete the DCPS Clearance Process.

This requires 3 steps: submitting the DCPS Volunteer Application; obtaining proof of a negative TB test; and completing the DCPS Fingerprinting process. EWDC helps new mentors complete this process, including hosting free TB clinics and organizing fingerprinting events with DCPS.

## **Are there other ways I can support Everybody Wins DC?**

Yes! In addition to mentoring, individuals can host book drives, join our monthly giving society, attend an EWDC event, volunteer in our main office, and more!

## **How does Power Lunch improve the lives of students?**

Reading with a Power Lunch mentor for an hour a week helps to instill a love of reading in our students, builds their listening, comprehension and vocabulary skills, and introduces them to a diverse selection of literature. Power Lunch also expands a student's opportunities for success by providing mentors who act as a positive role models, developing critical communication and interpersonal skills, and introducing students to adults from a diverse range of careers.

## **Where do I sign up?**

The Reading Mentor application for the 2018-19 school year will be available in August. You can also visit [www.everybodywinsdc.org](http://www.everybodywinsdc.org) for more details.

## **I'm A New Mentor And I Don't Know Which School To Volunteer At?**

You get to decide! Power Lunch currently serves students at 12 schools in the District and Arlington, VA, each of which has a waiting list and needs additional mentors. Take a look at our list of schools and see which location works best for you. That being said, many of our mentors come to us as part of an employer-based volunteer program that has selected to work with a particular school. If this applies to you, then you can select the school your organization has decided to support.

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**EVERYBODY WINS!**

**What If I Want To Mentor At A DCPS School But I Don't Have My DCPS Volunteer Clearance?**

That's okay! You can absolutely apply to the Power Lunch program before you get your DCPS clearance. We will follow up after your application is submitted to assist you in obtaining the necessary clearance so that you can start reading with a DCPS student. You can learn more about the DCPS clearance process below. Reminder – you do not need a DCPS Clearance if you plan to volunteer at Key Elementary school in Arlington, VA.

**I Have A DCPS Clearance But It Will Expire During The 2019-2020 School Year. Can I Still Serve As A Power Lunch Mentor?**

Yes! So long as you have a valid clearance you can start reading with a student. We will work with you to renew your clearance during the school year so that you don't have a break in your volunteer service.