

Fast Facts

LEARNING LEADERS: NEW YORK CITY'S SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Learning Leaders recruits, screens, trains and supports over 10,000 volunteers who provide tutoring and other services to nearly a quarter million New York City public school students in more than 800 schools citywide.

Learning Leaders staff conducted 1,362 training sessions and 856 family workshops in seven languages last year across New York City.

Learning Leaders is the largest school volunteer and parent involvement program in the United States. Founded in 1956, it was the first such program and served as the model for dozens of school volunteer programs in other major cities.

Learning Leaders

...are parents. Over 79% are parents of public school children. Learning Leaders serves as an important vehicle for parent engagement in New York City schools.

...are diverse. 65% self-identify as people of color. 23% of newly recruited volunteers are new immigrants. 50% speak a language other than English at home.

Learning Leaders

...impact student performance. Teachers reported that students improved in school work (96%), self-confidence (92%) and interest in school (89%), and that 27% of students who received help no longer required it. Children of volunteers were absent from school 20-25% less than their peers and scored up to 14.7% higher on standardized tests.

...equip and empower parents. Fully 92% of parent Learning Leaders reported more confidence in helping their children learn to read. 45% of parents went on to pursue further vocational training or education, and 84% said Learning Leaders had a positive effect on their job, career or education. 26% of parents joined a parent association after becoming a Learning Leader, and 55% of these then joined their School Leadership Team.

...support schools and teachers. Learning Leaders provided 1.6 million hours of service, valued at \$45* million, to schools last year. Volunteer programs and parent workshops are offered free to New York City public schools and to participants.

...is cost effective. The annual cost of training and supporting a volunteer is \$300.

- Learning Leaders volunteers serve 20% of the 1.1 million children in New York City public schools.
- Over 75% of New York City public elementary schools, and half of all public schools, have Learning Leaders.
- **Learning Leaders is the City's lead partner in the NYC Service initiative, "Serve Our Schools."**

*1,589,062 hours volunteered during 2007-08 school year, valued at \$28.04/hr by independentsector.org.
Most figures reported here are from teacher, Parent Coordinator and parent volunteer phone surveys, which produced these results consistently over the last three school years