

Mentors needed at every CCISD campus

Did you realize that thirty minutes, once a week could forever change a life?

It's true... time and time again we get feedback from CCISD teachers, parents, and volunteers validating the importance of our mentor program. A CCISD mentor relationship has many benefits. The obvious benefit for the student is the opportunity to be partnered with a positive adult role model to help navigate life's challenges and plan for the future. But what most volunteers don't realize until after they have participated in the program is just how much personal fulfillment they will get out of their experience. And ultimately, the life they are changing ... is indeed their very own.

Volunteering is also a professional development opportunity for folks looking to gain leadership and communication skills. Volunteering with CCISD can help parents better connect with their own children and/or local educators. Additionally, research has shown that people who volunteer for a cause they are passionate about are happier and much more productive than those who do not get involved in their community. As you can see, there are many reasons to volunteer and now is the perfect time to become involved.

CCISD Volunteer FAQ:

What is the time commitment to mentor at CCISD?

We've found that the most productive mentor relationships come out of weekly, 30 minute sessions. If volunteers can't commit to weekly sessions, an alternative schedule can usually be arranged.

What does a mentor do?

Mentors show up, hang out, befriend, listen, encourage, and advise. Mentors are positive adult role models who can help their assigned student think about career interests, make plans, set goals, follow up on goals, etc. Mentors don't take the place of a parent figure or school staff member. Mentors are an additional resource to support the student as they navigate life's challenges, plan for the future, and stay on track accomplish their goals. The content for mentor sessions are not structured, but [here is a list of suggested topics of discussion \(optional\) for your consideration.](#)

How do I talk to my supervisor about volunteering during school/business hours?

Inform your supervisor that you are interested in volunteering and that you would like to schedule a time where you can sit down with him/her to discuss 1) the current need for volunteers, 2) why you are interested in volunteering, 3) the timeframe for which you will be away from work, 4) your proposal for how you will either make up work or arrange for coverage, 5) how volunteering is a win-win for the business as well as the employee. Be prepared for your meeting and be open to your supervisor's question and concerns. Provide a clear plan for making up for the time away from work, if needed, and follow through accordingly.

What do I need to do to sign up?

Apply online at <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NjAyMzplbi1VUw==>

There is a multiphase approval process that includes a criminal background check, principal/campus approval, and a required orientation/training. Once approved, volunteers will be contacted about their schedule and assignment.

Contact CCISD Partners in Education (361.552.5722 or Boonea@calcoisd.org) to learn more.