Volunteering in Schools: Something for Everyone

There are many ways to volunteer in your local school. Anyone can find opportunities to fit unique time constraints and interests.

Scientific research shows that we should be involved in schools:

Regardless of family income or background, students whose parents are involved in their schooling are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school.


The most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status, but the extent to which the family creates a home environment that encourages learning, communicates high, yet reasonable, expectations for the child’s achievement, and becomes involved in the child’s education at school.


When parents are involved at school, the performance of all the children at school, not just their own, tends to improve. The more comprehensive and well planned the partnership between school and home, the higher the student achievement.

Prophets have said that we should be involved in schools:

Gordon B. Hinckley: I believe that for most of us the best medicine for loneliness is work and service in behalf of others. I do not minimize your problems, but I do not hesitate to say that there are many others whose problems are more serious than yours. Reach out to serve them, to help them, to encourage them. There are so many boys and girls who fail in school for want of a little personal attention and encouragement. There are so many elderly people who live in misery and loneliness and fear for whom a simple conversation would bring a measure of hope and brightness. “A Conversation with Single Adults,” Ensign, Mar. 1997, 61.

M. Russell Ballard: Church members—both men and women—should not hesitate, if they desire, to run for public office at any level of government wherever they live. Our voices are essential today and important in our schools, our cities, and our countries. Where democracy exists, it is our duty as members to vote for honorable men and women who are willing to serve. "Precious Gifts from God," April 2018 General Conference
Ideas for Volunteering in Schools:

1. Decision Making
   - Run for your local or state school board
   - Attend School Board meetings
   - Contact School Board members about issues
   - Join the School Community Council (Utah only)
     School Community Councils (SCCs) are tasked with deciding how trust land funds are used in each school. Every school in Utah has a SCC. For more information about SCCs: [http://www.schoollandtrust.org/parents-and-councils](http://www.schoollandtrust.org/parents-and-councils), [https://trustlands.utah.gov/our-agency/what-are-trust-lands](https://trustlands.utah.gov/our-agency/what-are-trust-lands)
   - Join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) or Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

2. Academics
   - Tutor reading
   - Be a classroom aid
   - Help with homework at after-school clinics
   - Share your expertise with teachers. You may be able to supplement a unit of study with a classroom presentation.
   - Speak at Career Day
   - Practice/Drill math facts
   - Distribute take-home reading books
   - Shelve books in the library

3. School Events
   - Plan holiday parties
   - Help with hearing and eye checks
   - Sew costumes or build sets for school productions
   - Chaperone field trips
   - Organize back-to-school nights or orientation meetings
   - Volunteer for athletic groups by working the concession stand, selling tickets, or keeping score
   - Start a club that fills a special need
   - Help with "teacher appreciation" efforts

4. Miscellaneous
   - Be a playground monitor
   - Adopt an outdoor area to beautify
   - Babysit a neighbor's child so she can volunteer
   - Collate or distribute Scholastic book order magazines
   - Organize a "walking bus"