

VOLUNTEER

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Literacy Now!

Volunteers are needed to help support the success of children now more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic brought the issue of childhood poverty to the forefront: fewer years of education, lower earnings, higher crime, and lower quality of health in adulthood. The good news is there is an opportunity to invest in children facing inequities, which is proven to be cost-effective over time the earlier intervention occurs.

Please see below for opportunities to invest in the children we serve.

For questions, contact Ashley at ashley@literacynowhouston.org.

To fill out a volunteer application, please click [here](#).



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is an academic enrichment program fully facilitated by volunteer mentors. Mentors are paired with a group of four 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade students to help build their literacy skills while developing life skills every child needs.

LUNCH BUNCH MENTOR

As a Lunch Bunch mentor, you will help your students grow by helping them develop positive decision-making skills and healthy relationships. An easy-to-follow curriculum is provided as a resource. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least one 30-minute session every week. Up to 30 minutes of prep time is expected each week. Comprehensive training and HISD background check required prior to first day is required. Schedule varies by school.

Due to COVID-19, Lunch Bunch and training will be offered through a virtual platform October 19-April 22 during the 2020-21 school year. In-person will be offered as an option in Spring 2021 (subject to change).



Group Enrichment Service Events

These reading enrichment activities are great team building opportunities while providing 48 or 64 of our Reading Intervention program students (K-2nd grade) with a fun way to improve their literacy enrichment skills.

ENRICHMENT VOLUNTEER

Our staff chooses the read aloud book, plans the activities, and assists your group at the event. Your team purchases the activity supplies (\$50-\$100). In addition, your team will purchase the books (up to \$600) that will be read aloud and given to each child to help build their home library. At least 12 or 16 volunteers are needed to maintain a low 4:1 child: adult ratio to ensure a successful event for all who are involved.

Due to COVID-19, these events will be offered virtually beginning in 2021. Each volunteer will be assigned to their group of students to read aloud a book for 15-30 minutes. Upon reading, a staff member will provide a copy of the book to each student to build their home library along with a themed activity to complete at home.



Read Aloud Month

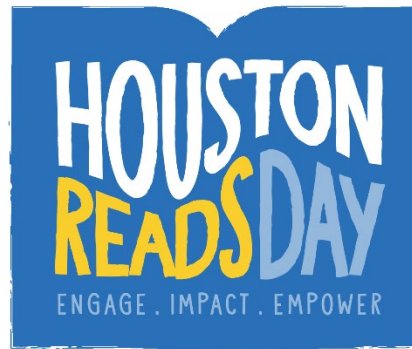
Focused effort to share the love of reading. According to the Children at Risk ranking scale, there are 79 (out of 159) HISD elementary schools that scored a C- or below. Compounded by research that indicates reading below a 3rd grade reading level is highly correlated with future academic challenges, dropout, incarceration, and poverty rates. It is clear to see that we can and should do more.

READ ALOUD MONTH VOLUNTEER

Volunteers can contribute to raising reading levels by reading aloud to a 1st or 2nd grade classroom for 30 minutes, once per week for three weeks in March. HISD background check required.

Due to COVID-19, Read Aloud Month may be hosted virtually. More information to be released at a later date.

To fill out a volunteer application, click [here](#).



Houston Reads Day

In an effort to raise awareness of the literacy crisis in our city and support Literacy Now's expansion plan, 400 volunteers will come together to read aloud to 10,000 K-3rd HISD students at 25 schools.

HOUSTON READS DAY VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed for this effort for 15 minutes on March 2nd to read aloud to a classroom. HISD background check required.

Due to COVID-19, Houston Reads Day may be hosted virtually. More information to be released at a later date.