



Mentoring the Next Generation: Chicago's Children "Reaching Every CPS Student in Every Neighborhood"



What is *Mentoring the Next Generation: Chicago's Children*?

Mentoring the Next Generation was designed by CEO Byrd-Bennett as a way to provide our students with an additional positive adult role model in their lives. The program provides Kindergarten and 8th grade CPS students with one-on-one support from a trained, caring adult mentor. *Next Generation* mentors spend one hour per week in schools, building relationships with students and working with classroom teachers to help children develop their skills.

Why create a mentoring program in Chicago Public Schools?

Mentoring the Next Generation is an important part of CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett's vision for Chicago's children. It aligns with the goals laid out in her 5-Year Action Plan, which is a roadmap for providing every child from every neighborhood with a rigorous, well-rounded education that prepares them for success in college, career and life. Research has also shown that students who are engaged in positive adult-child relationships demonstrate higher academic achievement and exhibit fewer social-emotional problems over the course of their schooling (Chalk & Bizo, 2004; Reinke, Lewis-Palmer, 2007; Stormont, Smith & Lewis, 2007; Sutherland, et. Al., 2000).

How has the program been going so far?

Since the December 2013 launch of *Mentoring the Next Generation*, over 475 CPS employees have volunteered to serve as mentors at more than 215 schools. Principals, teachers, and CPS staff have already started to notice positive academic and non-academic benefits for students participating in the program.

Are there plans to expand *Mentoring the Next Generation* to include non-CPS employees?

We are currently planning the expansion of the program citywide to enlist corporations and other organizations to become part of the army of believers who take responsibility for the continued success of the next generation. The participation of Chicagoans like you helps ensure more students have access to mentors who support them on their path to success in college, career, and life.

How can I volunteer to serve as a *Next Generation* mentor?

Potential mentors will be required to complete the following steps in accordance with the district's Volunteer Policy:

1. Complete a Volunteer Fingerprint Background Investigation
2. Complete the CPS Volunteer Application
3. Attend a mandatory two-hour training based on your grade-level preference provided by the CPS Office of Early Childhood Education or the CPS Department of Literacy.

Who do I contact for further information?

For more information about volunteering as a *Next Generation* mentor or on the current status of the program, contact Ashley Richardson at mentor@cps.edu.