



Frequently Asked Questions

What happens in a typical tutoring session?

During the one-hour tutoring session, students and tutors work together on math and language arts skill-building, homework help, and reading. Our skill-building curriculum is based on the Seattle Public School and Washington State standards and is designed to help students get up to grade level in math and language arts. During homework help, students work on assignments from their regular classroom teachers. The amount of homework individual students have may impact how the hour is spent. Middle and high school students tend to have heavier homework loads than the younger students. Conversely, some students rarely bring homework, and thus spend more time on skill building.

How is this program funded?

The Youth Tutoring Program is funded by the generosity of our local and national supporters. The Seattle Housing Authority is one of our founding supporters and funders. We are also supported through city and foundational funding. Much of our funding also comes from our volunteers and other donors who honor us through their financial support. To make a contribution, please [click here](#).

What are YTP's goals?

The goals for the Youth Tutoring Program are to improve academic skills, increase self-esteem, positively impact attitudes about learning and school, improve school attendance, and provide personal encouragement and role models. See YTP's Mission, Vision and Values.

How does the YTP measure its effectiveness?

Our effectiveness is evaluated by students, their parents, staff, teachers, and volunteers at the end of each academic year. YTP currently utilizes several measurement surveys to assess results, and consistently reports positive findings. We survey parents, students, volunteers and teachers on issues of student academic improvement, attendance, behavior and attitude. We also track the number of skills passed monthly. As part of our revitalized Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) incentive system, we have begun to track for evaluation measurement purposes Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes passed, attendance, attitude, and grades. We were excited to be able to access the Seattle Public School (SPS) systems' information portal, the Source for most of our students this year. For many students, this provided us with valuable, objective information regarding student attendance and grade improvement.

What need does the Youth Tutoring Program address?

Youth living in the public housing communities face many barriers to academic success.

Their parents often work long hours to support their families and do not have the time or energy to help with homework. Many parents haven't achieved the academic proficiency to be able to help and encourage their children with schoolwork. Commonly, they cannot afford academic tools that are taken for granted in middle income households, such as computers, Internet access and software. Many of their families are new to this country and do not speak English at home. Some families are also grappling with substance abuse and domestic violence. Their communities are often riddled with violence, drug use, and gang activities. They are low-income and struggle economically simply to survive. Behavior problems, poor health and nutrition, lack of self-confidence, and little and no after-school supervision are just a few of the factors impacting these students' ability to function successfully. As a result, many of these youth are seriously behind in school and are lacking in essential academic skills. Further compounding the situation, a significant number dislike school and are often absent.

What are the basic volunteer requirements?

Volunteers must be active high school students or have obtained their high school diploma or equivalent, complete the formal application process, and be interested in making a difference in the lives of youth!

Who is a typical volunteer?

YTP tutors range in age from high school student to retiree. Tutors come from many different employment and academic backgrounds. Volunteers do not need to be an expert in any one field, and there are a variety of resources available to assist tutors at the centers. Many working professionals find the tutoring center hours to be a convenient volunteer opportunity.

Should I be concerned about my safety as a volunteer?

Just as you would exercise caution in the evening in any part of the city, our volunteers should do the same. It is always wise to take these commonsense precautions: park in a well lit area, always lock your car, walk with another tutor to your car at the end of the evening.