



# A Guide for New Partners

**Akron Public Schools**  
**Community/Adult Partnerships & Customer Service**  
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## Welcome to the AkronReads Partnership

AkronReads is an outgrowth of OhioReads, the education initiative started in 1999 by former Ohio Governor Bob Taft. It is a community volunteer tutoring partnership of schools, organizations, parents and students working together to ensure Akron's youngest students are reading at grade level. It is part of the Akron Public Schools Literacy Initiative.

Our goals are to:

- Increase the number of business and organization partnerships with the Akron Public Schools.
- Increase the number of volunteer tutors who want to make a regular commitment to the Akron Reads program

We've prepared this Partnership Guide to help individuals understand the commitment involved in becoming an Akron Reads tutor and to assist in establishing and maintaining mutually rewarding relationships with your partner school(s).

As an AkronReads Tutor Partner, you've joined 23 local businesses and organizations that and hundreds of other community volunteers who have made the commitment to support the Akron Reads program. In the process, volunteers have told us that they receive as much as they give in working with our students and watching them blossom into energetic readers.



## Tutor Requirements

There are a couple of requirements for Akron Reads tutors.

**The first requirement is Training** – AkronReads volunteers must be trained by Akron Public Schools' personnel in September and October, or at earliest convenience. We'll come to your site, or your employees can attend training sessions on any of the other training days.

**The second requirement is Security** – State/BCI&I (and/or FBI) background checks are required for all tutors who have not had security clearances through their places of business.

We're proud of this successful partnership! We're grateful for the support shown by the Akron-area businesses, organizations, and individuals in helping our students become better readers. Our principals, building coordinators, and students value the friendships we've made since the program began, and we look forward to working with you and your employees!

*"One of the most important gifts one can give to another is the gift of reading. Thank you again for generously sharing your gifts with the students of the Akron Public Schools. Stay focused on the mission, ensuring all children can read and Akron will be an even better place to live." -- Dr. Sylvester Small, former Superintendent of Schools*

Now if you're ready to begin....contact us if you have any questions about the program or your partner school.

Akron Public Schools  
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## AkronReads Best Practices

- Generally, a business, organization, or individual partners with an Akron Public elementary school that is geographically close. This reduces the amount of time away from the worksite and travel time.
- Work closely with their school(s) Principal and AkronReads Site Coordinator to develop a partnership that meets the needs of both parties, particularly with regard to tutoring days, times and procedures.
- Individuals commit to 1-on-1 tutoring sessions. Communicate with your building Principal and Site Coordinator in advance to ensure that the students will arrive promptly and that the materials will be readily available. This will allow the maximum amount of time to tutor each student.
- Individuals who cannot make a weekly tutoring commitment are often willing to be substitutes.
- Establish ground rules with your partner school for notifying tutors if the student is absent. Some schools phone their partners; others have a list of alternate students who can benefit from a tutoring session when the regular AkronReads student is absent.
- Because parking at Akron Public Schools is often very limited, please encourage tutors to carpool as often as possible.
- Your tutors should notify the Site Coordinator/Principal of any problems or concerns they have with students.
- Be creative! Children love variety in tutoring. Share your tutoring successes with fellow employees.
- In order to avoid hurt feelings or jealousy among the students please avoid bringing individual gifts or food to students. Experience shows that it is better for the volunteer or organization to give students holiday gifts and/or gifts at the end of the year if they so choose. Gifts should be the same for all students.
- The tutors' role is to encourage students to read and write in a positive, supportive atmosphere. Problems and/or concerns about students should be reported on the information forms located in the students tutoring folders or training packets.