

“ E.L.V.I.S.: Everybody Loves Volunteers in Seymour ” .

SCSC is developing a program to utilize volunteers interested in learning specific methods to support and instruct students in Seymour Community Schools. The goal is to foster mentoring and tutoring programs through E.L.V.I.S. volunteers for elementary, middle, and high school students to increase student achievement.

Seymour Community School Corporation is pursuing the opportunity to build relationships in our community to strengthen the types of supports we can provide our students. We encourage parents, grandparents, or community members to volunteer.

E.L.V.I.S. Volunteers will be required to provide a clear criminal history check and will be required to participate in training with a certified staff member at Seymour Community Schools. This being a volunteer program, individuals will be advised that completing training and providing a clear criminal history check is no guarantee of placement. Needs of students and availability of the volunteer will determine placements.

To provide appropriate training, we will work with volunteers to select the type of support the individual would feel most comfortable providing and then schedule training specific to Seymour Community Schools. The type of support a volunteer could provide might include reading to students, supporting students to solve complex algebra problems, or helping students learn the letters and sounds in the alphabet. We are designing a volunteer program to put each volunteer's time and talents to work for the children in our schools.

E.L.V.I.S. Volunteers can expect to participate in a two hour opening training to learn about Seymour Community Schools and the E.L.V.I.S. Volunteer Program. We will be utilizing a volunteer program facilitator to assist with training, development of materials, and management of volunteers. Teresa Thompson, former Director of Curriculum and Instruction for SCSC is working with me in this capacity. The key to the success of this initiative is planning, training and clarity of expectation. To get the program off to a great start, our plan includes the development of a volunteer handbook and specific protocols for the program.

Did you know that many area businesses reward employees for community volunteering or mentoring? Several local churches have volunteer ministries and have contacted me asking to work with our students. As you can see, we have a wealth of knowledge and resources available in our community. It is our job to harness this power to benefit our students.

E.L.V.I.S. volunteers will not take the place of the traditional volunteers we see in our schools. E.L.V.I.S. volunteers will provide specific, academic support for specifically identified needs in our schools. We hope to fully develop the program over the next semester and to have a strong kick off of services in the Fall of 2013.

We currently have a first draft of the handbook and outlines for training agendas. You can expect updates on our progress and copies of the final documents in the coming months.