



An Overview of Teach For America for Parents

TEACHFORAMERICA

Making a Difference with Teach For America

Education is recognized as the primary vehicle to improve the future of our country. A quality education leads to financial success, greater voter participation, and increased volunteerism. However, our ability to build our country is limited by educational inequity. In low-income communities, only one in 10 students graduate from college. This equates to limited life opportunities for children growing up in poverty. Educational inequity inhibits career options, weakens local communities, and at a national level, costs the country approximately \$500 billion a year.

However, we know that it doesn't have to be this way. Teach For America teachers (called corps members) and alumni are leading some of the most successful efforts to close the achievement gap in communities nationwide. The most rigorous, independent studies show that corps member effectiveness is on par with, and often exceeds, the effectiveness of other teachers, including certified and veteran teachers.

The impact doesn't stop after two years in the corps. Our alumni – now 20,000 strong – are leading the effort to improve the quality of public education in low-income communities. They are working from all professional sectors to shape the schools, policies, and investments that will propel our country's educational and economic growth in the 21st century.

If your child joins the movement to eliminate educational inequity, they will start a journey that will transform a classroom, a community, and your child's future. This is a journey that you can be proud of.

Your Child will Receive Training and Support as a Member of a New Community

We have 20 years of experience in preparing corps members to be successful in their classrooms. Our regional staff provide the training corps members need to deliver a fundamental impact in their classrooms, as well as the support needed to transition to a new community safely and securely. The nationally-recognized training program and ongoing support includes:

- » A rigorous five-week summer training institute where corps members develop the foundational teaching skills and knowledge needed to be highly effective teachers.
- » Regional orientations before and after the summer institute where corps members connect with other corps members, alumni, regional staff, and local community leaders.

Education is our country's greatest challenge, and Teach for America is directly addressing that failure by improving teacher quality, school leadership, and by inspiring people who are in a position to help correct the problem.

Paul and Cathy Chapman,
Parents of Taylor Chapman (Charlotte Corps '05)

Teach For America is infusing a catalyst into our school systems that 'raises all boats.' Corps members bring renewed energy and creativity into schools in low-income communities. They challenge the status quo and raise the bar for all teachers. Their results speak for themselves.

John Sequeira,
Parent of Gina Sequeira (Jacksonville Corps '08)

Being a new teacher is an extremely challenging work role. Through the intense Institute program, our son was given a first opportunity in the classroom, but more importantly, throughout his two-year commitment he had continual professional training and one-on-one oversight from Program Directors and other staff.

Bob and Susan Quinn,
Parents of Conor Quinn (Chicago Corps '07)



- » An assigned program director who observes corps members in the classroom and serves as a source of support, guidance, and feedback.
- » Ongoing professional development, including learning teams and access to our private teacher-resource website, TFANet.
- » Clustered placement, where we aim to place our teachers together for added support.
- » Frequent social events, such as weekly dinners, networking events, and outings.

Teach For America Offers Benefits for Future Career Plans and Graduate School

Whether your child stays in education or not, we have regional and national staff members who are dedicated to cultivating your child's long-term career plan and opening doors for the future. Our benefits for alumni include:

- » A Career and Leadership Center with a wide array of career resources, such as alumni mentors, a job board, resume drives, and interview preparation resources.
- » A regional alumni affairs team that meets individually with alumni, hosts events, and develops strategic partnerships to connect alumni to each other.
- » Initiatives to help alumni build specific skills, readiness, and networks to accelerate their impact and leadership in the following areas: school and teacher leadership, politics, social entrepreneurship, board leadership, policy, the private sector, and the nonprofit sector
- » Hundreds of graduate school partners and employers who offer special benefits to Teach For America alumni, such as two-year deferrals, scholarships, internships, and career mentoring.

Your Child will Receive a Competitive Compensation Package

Teach For America corps members receive a competitive compensation package that sets them up for financial security now and in the future. Benefits include:

- » Salary ranging from \$30,000-\$51,500 a year (depending on location), comprehensive health insurance, and retirement benefits. Corps members are paid by their school districts and salaries vary on a cost-of-living basis.
- » \$10,700 in AmeriCorps education awards that can be used to pay back student loans or towards future educational costs.
- » \$1,000-\$6,000 in grants and no-interest loans for relocation.
- » Alumni are eligible for up to \$50,000 in grad school scholarships and application fee waivers.

What Should You do Next?

- » Check out our website: <http://www.teachforamerica.org/parents>
- » Join us on Facebook and connect with parents and corps members: <http://www.facebook.com/teachforamerica>

Now that my son has high school juniors and seniors relying on him, his mission is based on what's the best thing for someone else, not just himself. As a parent, that's what you hope for your kids. That's what makes them an adult; they're not just thinking about themselves, they're thinking about the betterment of others.

Cathryn Crookston,
Parent of Ben Crookston (Chicago Corps '09)

I was impressed with the compensation package. It enabled my son to transition nicely from the family payroll to the school payroll.

Shelly Porges,
Parent of Stephen Pasternak (Greater New Orleans Corps '08)