



*"In school I was reckless because no one cared and no one said anything. If someone was there to push me, maybe I would have stayed in school."*

- Vivian (on gradnation.org)

## On Education: Advancing Academic Achievement, Reducing Absenteeism

Students with more than 18 absences per year have less than a 20% chance of graduating from high school. Each academic year, as many as 7.5 million U.S. students miss more than a month of school, and most recent statistics show that 19% of American high school students do not graduate on time.

Points of Light's Education Program works to turn those numbers around. Powered by our National Service members, the **Corps 18** program mobilizes caring adult volunteers to support students in ways that effectively **reduce absenteeism and improve academic performance**, as well as support the communities lacking quality academic conditions.



Corps 18 VISTA members train and Brighter Future Fellows engage volunteers in service opportunities to lead quality out-of-school

programming and strengthen connections between local schools, parents and students in an effort to bring equity to the education landscape in America. Students who have mentors do better than those who don't, and those who participate in quality after-school programs have better attitudes toward learning.

**IMPACT:** 70% of students showed an improvement in attendance, discipline, and/or academic engagement as result of programs powered by Corps 18.

### By the Numbers

Engaged **45,548** parents and community volunteers

Served **16,181** students in before- and after-school programs

Provided services for **11,964** parents and residents

Raised **\$1,577,449** in cash and in-kind donations

Partnered with **941** community organizations

Reduced summer learning loss for **3,650** students

Served in **150** schools across America

Developed **954** service projects

**1518** Parents on Local Advisory Committees



## POINTS OF LIGHT

By providing the tools and resources volunteers need to address absenteeism in low-to moderate-income communities, Points of Light reduces the burden on organizations, schools and individuals committed to improving academic performance in their communities. Our education program offers **resources and toolkits** that incorporate and adapt curricula, drawn from diverse sources, into before- and after-school programs, engage corporate volunteers as one-time or long-term volunteers, and design customized projects to benefit both students and the community.

Studies indicate that **the presence of caring adults significantly curbs absenteeism and increases student engagement**, which translates into fewer high school dropouts. Points of Light provides different ways for people to get involved. These include:

- Mentoring
- On-site projects to revitalize a school building, playground, or after-school center
- Education fellowships through which fellows lead, design, and implement programs specific to a corporate sponsor's volunteer engagement in schools
- Sponsored dinner homework clubs
- Parent engagement and support programs with subject matter focus on STEM, literacy and other areas

### Volunteers are changing the world

*Support for Points of Light's Education Program advances effective programmatic work to combat absenteeism and improve academic performance. For more information on how to get involved, contact Adam Goslin at [agoslin@pointsoflight.org](mailto:agoslin@pointsoflight.org) or email Vonetta West at [vwest@pointsoflight.org](mailto:vwest@pointsoflight.org).*

Our partners provide tools and activities that equip volunteers to support the academic development of students. Our current partners include PBS Learning Media, Get Schooled, iCivics, Code.org, Afterschool Alliance, Play Works, The King Center, Learning to Give, generationOn, NBC Universal Parent Toolkit, and Attendance Works.