



*"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 equips and mobilizes volunteers to support children and communities in academic conditions that lack quality resources in order to create a positive impact on student achievement. We partner with organizations and volunteers to address the barriers that prevent students from achieving academic success.

### Points of Light Education Program focuses deliberate out-of-school time programming led by volunteers in four main areas:

- Deconstruction of barriers to academic success
- Building relationships with caring adult mentors
- Creating safer and improved learning environments
- Community collaborations and partnerships for youth

**THE 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

**22,429** Engaged parents and community volunteers

**16,181** Students served in before- and after-school programs

**6,925** Parents and residents received services

**941** Community organizations engaged

**3,650** Students experienced reduced summer learning loss

**150** Schools across America impacted

**270** Service projects developed





## POINTS OF LIGHT

**CORPS 18**  
A Program of Points of Light

Corps 18 VISTA members train and 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.**

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 a variety of **resources and toolkits** that incorporate and/or adapt existing curricula from interested organizations 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 merely **the presence of caring adults significantly curbs absenteeism and increases student engagement**, which translates into fewer high school dropouts. Points of Light provides structured, results-driven ways for people to get involved. These include:

- On-site projects to mentor, or to revitalize a school, playground, or after-school center
- Education Fellowship programs that allow the roles of fellows to be customized to lead, design, and implement programs specific to a corporate sponsor's volunteer engagement in schools
- Sponsored Dinner Homework Clubs, parent engagement and support programs, and STEM-focused projects

### 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 Terra Gay at [tgay@pointsoflight.org](mailto:tgay@pointsoflight.org) or email [corps18program@pointsoflight.org](mailto:corps18program@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.