

WHAT IS A PARENT AMBASSADOR?

A “Parent Ambassador” is a parent or guardian of a Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) student who actively works to support their child’s school and positively promote HUSD programs, services, events, and activities to Hayward families and community members.

The HUSD Parent Ambassador Program seeks HUSD parents and guardians who are interested in stepping up for their community. The program provides parents and guardians with an exciting opportunity to develop leadership and advocacy skills while supporting parent and family engagement and the academic success of HUSD students.

Ambassadors act as a liaison between the school district and the parent community, outreaching to HUSD parents and caregivers and helping link HUSD students and their families to school and community services, including health services. They also volunteer at school events and functions, such as Open House, Back to School Night, Parent University Events, field trips, tabling, etc.

Founded in 2015, over the last six years the program has grown from 26 initial volunteers to a total of 41 volunteers in 2021. Today, all 30 HUSD schools have at least one Parent Ambassador assigned to their site. HUSD currently partners with La Familia, a local nonprofit mental health and community support services agency, to connect HUSD families to health and wellness services as needed.

All Parent Ambassadors are required to go through an orientation and leadership training to inform them about the resources available to HUSD families and prepare them to be an effective advocate for their school site. Over the course of the year, they attend monthly program meetings and volunteer five hours per month at their site. An overview of responsibilities and expectations is provided below, along with information about how you can get involved:

PARENT AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION:

Parent Ambassadors must be:

- Community-oriented with a commitment to providing service to others
- A parent/guardian of an HUSD student
- Available five hours per month to volunteer at their school site
- Able to attend some evening and weekend training and meetings
 - Monthly meeting first Monday of the month
 - Two-weekend orientations
 - Leadership Ambassador Training
- Able to communicate effectively with a diverse group of parents

Role and Responsibilities of the Parent Ambassador:

- Attend Ambassador leadership/advocacy training and meetings
- Be present at existing school site parent meetings to promote district initiatives, programs, and services
- Be available five hours per month at the school site
- Help the school site’s Family Engagement, Outreach, and Equity Specialist (FEOES) promote parent education and involvement in various district and school programs and other activities
- Help connect the FEOES and other staff with outside organizations that may be beneficial for families
- Help recruit parents to attend parent workshops and school site activities
- Volunteer at school events and functions (Open House, Back to School Night, field trips, etc.)
- Work collaboratively with school staff such as the school site principal and FEOES
- Promote health access activities at the school sites that link families to services
- Share parent engagement experiences, including successes and recommendations for improvement

For more information and how to apply, visit <https://www.husd.us/parentambassadors>.