



Pickerington Schools Parents on Positivity Patrol (PoPPs) FAQ

1. What is PoPP?

The acronym PoPP stands for *Parents on Positivity Patrol*. This program consists of parent volunteers in our schools. Parent volunteers play an essential role in modern education. They are great resources for teachers and solid support for the school community, but parent volunteers also demonstrate to their children and others that school is important and worth the time and effort. We have created this opportunity to engage parents in schools where their children attend. In PLSD, we value parents and families, and together we are the community. The purpose of PoPP is to ensure we are providing more caring adults in our buildings. In addition, our PoPP's spread positivity by building positive relationships with students and staff.

2. What does a typical day for a PoPP volunteer look like?

A typical day for a PoPP looks something like this:

PoPPs sign in at the main office and pick up their PoPP vest and walkie-talkie.

The PoPP then heads to the area for patrol identified by the school administration. Their primary mission* is to be a positive presence in the building, sharing a friendly smile or a welcoming "Hello." The PoPPs work in pairs and can monitor halls, restrooms, and cafeteria areas.

***PoPP are NOT disciplinarians.**

3. How did the program come to be?

After the pandemic there was a meeting held at a local church for families to share their concerns. During this meeting, parents expressed a desire to be active in schools, and they asked us to explore the possibility of parent volunteers at the high school level. So we did more than explore the opportunity; we started a pilot program at all four secondary schools (Pickerington High School Central, Pickerington High School North, Ridgeview Junior High, and Lakeview Junior High). This year, we are extending the PoPP program throughout the district.

4. Has it made a difference? and if so, how?

Yes, it has made a difference for our students, staff and parents. Our students look forward to the positive interactions with the PoPP. Our parents get a glimpse of school culture and become part of their student's educational experience, and our teachers and staff members look forward to seeing the PoPPs in the buildings.

5. How many volunteers do you need and how many hours are they required to work?

We would love to have at least 100 PoPPs; the hours depend on the school's needs and the parent's schedules. For example, some parents can only participate on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10-12, and others can participate all day.

6. How do our schools benefit from this program?

Karen Mapp's research out of Harvard and Joyce Epstein's work from Johns Hopkins University have shown that children of a school volunteer make better grades and perform better on tests. They're also better behaved, have better attendance, and are more likely to graduate and continue their education. In addition, this program solidifies the ecosystems of support for students and improves relationships and engagement with parents.

7. How do people become POPP volunteers?

- Email PoPP@plsd.us.
- Complete the PoPP Volunteer Application.
- Complete a criminal background check.
- Actively participate in PoPP Orientation & Training.
- Be ready to make a positive difference in our schools!