

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**I don't have a lot of experience working with children – is that okay?** While some experience is helpful, you do not have to be an expert to work with a Little. Behind the scenes, you'll have a team of experts – BBBSLR staff – cheering you on, providing support, answering questions, and helping you out anytime you need it.

**If I meet with my Little Brother/Little Sister at lunch time, do I pay for my lunch?** No. The Big Brother/Big Sister does go through the lunch line in the cafeteria with their Little, and may get a lunch, but there is no cost to the Big Brother/Big Sister.

**What's in it for me?** Think back to when you were a child – who was the person, other than a parent, who brought a little magic into your life just by being there? By becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, you can be that special person in the life of a child - just be a friend to a child who needs one. Have fun together. Learn from each other. Help a child discover those little moments that are so magical for a young person. And you **both** will be forever changed by the experience.

**What if I know someone else that is interested?** We have great information on our website, and interested individuals can also call our office and speak to one of our Mentoring Coordinators. In addition, you may also pass along this brochure.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of the Laurel Region



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of the Laurel Region

**Contact our agency  
to get started today:**

[schools@bbbslr.org](mailto:schools@bbbslr.org)



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Find us:



## School-Based Mentoring Programs



**CAN YOU SPARE 30 MINUTES  
A WEEK TO HELP MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE?**

# School-Based Mentoring Programs

## Program Description

Volunteers serve as Big Brothers/Big Sisters for local elementary students. The volunteer meets one-on-one with the same student on a weekly/regular basis during the school year to work together on improving academic, social, relationship, and life skills issues. Key goals of the programs include allowing for the elementary students to experience a positive mentoring session, and improving grades and reducing tardiness and absenteeism rates.

NEW: We're proud to now offer a "Read To Succeed" program for children in Kindergarten through Second Grade, focusing on improving child literacy skills.

## The "Big/Little" Relationship

Our School-Based Mentoring programs offer flexibility to fit into volunteers' scheduling needs. Options include:

- "Breakfast Buddies"
- "Lunch Buddies"
- "After-School Tutoring/Mentoring"

The agency monitors the "Big/Little" relationship on a regular basis and offers continual support for the match.

## Program Impact

Most of the children involved with BBBSLR do not have the opportunity to have quality, one-on-one time with an adult in their life. The mentoring programs allow that child to form a relationship with a caring adult and improve areas of academic and life skills competencies.

Recent local results show the improvements seen in Little Brothers/Little Sisters participating in the School-Based Mentoring programs during the 2016-2017 school year:

- 72.8% - educational Success (grades, goals/expectations)
- 90.9% - Risk Attitudes (avoidance of drugs, alcohol, violence)
- 81.9% - Social Acceptance (self-esteem, friends/relationships)

## The Volunteers

- Are able to commit to meeting with a child once a week during the school year for at least two school years.
- Provide friendship, guidance, and a positive role model to the children.
- Complete agency screenings, references, and background checks.
- Maintain regular contact with Big Brothers Big Sisters' staff.

## Steps to Becoming a Big

The first step to becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister is as simple as calling the agency or sending an e-mail. BBBSLR staff are available to answer any questions you may have.

## The Children

- Are recommended by school staff based on criteria such as the child not working to his/her potential, exhibiting poor relationships with peers, and exhibiting low self-esteem.
- Are screened by Big Brothers Big Sisters' staff for participation.