

# YouthFriends Works: 14 Years of Proven Results



*“YouthFriends is the gold standard for connecting communities with schools.”*  
– Superintendent

Since 1995, more than 100 school districts in Missouri and Kansas have partnered with YouthFriends to implement and manage the safest and most effective school-based mentoring programs possible. By connecting students with caring adult volunteers in schools, YouthFriends promotes success, encourages healthy behaviors and builds stronger communities. YouthFriends helps school districts achieve their strategic objectives by providing comprehensive tools, training, technology and support to sustain successful school-based mentoring efforts that meet or exceed national best practice standards.

## YOUTHFRIENDS ADDS VALUE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY:

### Meeting Strategic Objectives

- Offers flexible system that districts can tailor to meet their needs and strategic objectives
- Supports the learning environment, allows teachers to implement creative teaching strategies for one-to-one and group tutoring, helps meet grade-level expectations
- Addresses state and federal accountability and funding concerns, including attendance and graduation

### Risk Management

- Addressing liability concerns by offering prudent risk management protocols including quadruple background screening of all volunteers and thorough training and selection of volunteers

### Creating Positive Connections with Community Patrons

- Providing additional connections for business partnerships
- Promoting engagement and positive dialogue with community patrons

- Demonstrating the concept that youth development belongs to the entire community
- Matching community and volunteer interests with specific school district needs
- Building community support for levy and bond initiatives

### Systematic Documentation System

- Documenting the efforts of all volunteers, including activities and time invested, through a web-based mentor management system, which provides valuable reports for key stakeholders

### Offering Proven Results

- 97.6% of school district staff report the YouthFriends experience is of value to students
- 97% of staff report that YouthFriends is of value to their school
- 97.6% of staff would encourage other school staff to become involved with YouthFriends