

To: Campus Mentor & Partner Coordinators and Parent Support Specialists

From: Cathy Jones, Executive Director
Austin Partners In Education

Re: Voluntary Donation Page on APIE Website

Date: August 27, 2015

NEW THIS SCHOOL YEAR:

Austin Partners In Education (APIE) has amended its online volunteer registration process to include a page asking volunteers to make a **voluntary** donation to help offset some of the costs incurred for registering and processing volunteers. On average, APIE processes 7,000 AISD volunteers annually.

An opt-out option is available for those who are unable to make a voluntary donation. Not making a donation **does not** prevent a volunteer from signing up. Below is the exact wording on the APIE Voluntary Donation page:

A \$10 donation will help offset registration related costs, and any additional gift will go to support our educational programs in Austin ISD schools. To continue to volunteer registration without donating, [click here](#).

We know there will be issues associated with this change, which is why we are piloting it as a "Voluntary Donation" and not a mandatory fee. We also know that not everyone can give a donation and we wish we didn't have the need to ask; but due to increasing costs associated with the registration process, we are forced to make a change to how we've handled this in the past. It is our hope that at least a small portion of the 7,000 volunteers we process would be able to make a small donation to help offset the related costs.

As always, APIE relies heavily on our campus mentor & partner coordinators and parent support specialists to help get volunteers registered. Your help in communicating this change is greatly appreciated as volunteers work through this new step. It is also important to know that opting out of the donation does not prevent someone from signing up to volunteer. It is not our intent to discourage people from volunteering – volunteers are our lifeblood!

APIE will analyze this donation data at the end of the pilot to determine the financial impact and to help drive our future decisions around this issue. We will also take into consideration the feedback we receive from the good folks like you who are dealing with this change "on the front lines."

Thank you for your support as we work through this transition!



