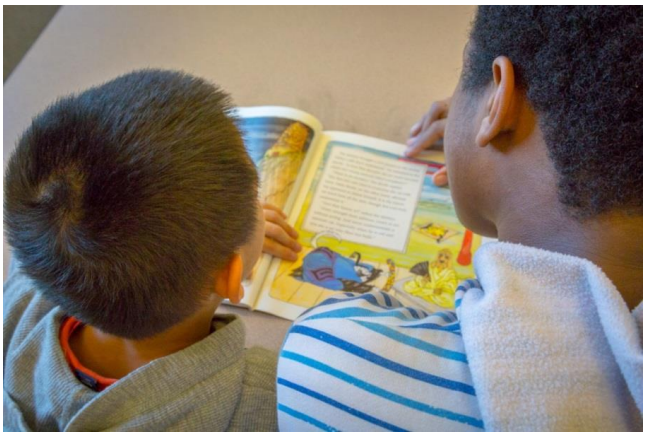
# Board Opportunity

## Team Read is seeking board members committed to closing opportunity gaps, fostering youth development and growing our organization.

**About Team Read**

Team Read believes all kids deserve to be great readers and teens should have access to meaningful paid jobs. We work to close education opportunity gaps through a unique, cross-age, and year-round one-to-one tutoring program. Our dual-impact model enables students to become confident readers with the necessary reading skills for academic success, and teens to develop personal and work skills through meaningful paid tutoring jobs that support their transition into college and future employment.



Team Read envisions equitable learning communities in Seattle/King County and beyond, where young students are reading with skill and joy, and teens are developing into future leaders. Both are set for success in school, the job market, and life. We focus where opportunity gaps are greatest and are driven by care and compassion to provide valuable support to young readers and career exploration to teens.

**Why We Are "On A Mission" to Grow**

Team Read's staff and Board of Directors realize there are still hundreds of young students reading at least one year below grade level in our communities who need help, but do not yet receive our support. We also know that regional economic trends are moving thousands of students who would benefit from Team Read further into south King County.

We are driven by informed urgency: Not only do children deserve to be great readers, but they *must* be great readers if they are to thrive academically and pursue successful futures. That an estimated 50% of low-income children of color and English Language Learners in our region are reading below standard is a serious social justice issue. Statistics show that not reading at grade level by fourth grade increases the odds of declining academic success exponentially– we cannot let our opportunity gaps widen.

We also know that our teens need great opportunities to grow their skills and explore career options. Team Read provides teens with a meaningful first job, paying them a fair wage for challenging work, while supporting their own career exploration and a providing them a way to contribute positively to the communities where they live.

**Our Strategic Plan and Growing Our Board of Directors**

We developed an ambitious three-year strategic plan in 2019 to expand and serve more young students and teens in Seattle and King County, while ensuring quality and fidelity to Team Read's proven model. We are seeking to do this by expanding and deepening our scope while also pursuing more intentionally our own equity and diversity efforts within program, our board and staff.

Board members should be ready to support fundraising activities and participate in a variety of ways to ensure the sustainability of the organization. Board members typically make a 3-year commitment.

**The Skills We Are Seeking**

We are interested in recruiting board members with a wide range of experience and backgrounds. Key interests and attributes include:

- You care deeply about children developing foundational reading skills for academic and life success
- You believe teens can change the world for the better if given the opportunity
- You are interested in being an ambassador for Team Read to help us grow our network of supporters
- You have one or more of the following:
    - A strong interest in high-quality public education for all and leveraging community assets in support of our students
    - Local connections and experience within South Seattle and South King County communities
    - A personal commitment to equity work
    - Youth development interest and expertise
    - Corporate experience and connections in organizational development, strategic planning, or human resources



**Time Commitment:**

Board meetings are held bi-monthly (6 per year), on the third Thursday evening of the month. In addition, each Board member is expected to serve on a committee that meets in the other months for 1 hour via conference call or in person. Board members should also plan to join and drive attendance of the annual Spring Luncheon, and may be asked to join site visits, teen coach trainings, and other special events.

**For More Information**

Please email melissa@teamread.org to learn more about board opportunities. We will answer any questions you may have and send you the board job description. Then, if you're interested in serving on our Board, a member of our board development committee will contact you to arrange a meeting and provide you with our board application. Please also visit our website at www.teamread.org.

**Thank you for helping kids become great readers and teens grow as leaders!**