

Dear Applicant:

Response-Ability requires applicants to visit an inner city elementary school to observe a first or second year teacher. The objective of this observation is to give potential volunteers exposure to an inner city school environment *before* they join the Response-Ability program. You can visit a Response-Ability volunteer teacher in Philadelphia, Los Angeles or Washington, DC, or a teacher in a school in an inner city near you.

For this observation, we ask that you spend at least two hours in the school to get an idea of what it is like to be in an urban education environment. We hope you will gain a better understanding of the responsibilities and challenges that inner city elementary teachers face along with the joys that each classroom brings. While this observation will only be a glimpse of what urban education is like, it will be a start towards familiarizing yourself with your potential placement environment.

Past Response-Ability members have agreed that visiting a school was a valuable addition to their application process.

Enclosed in this packet is a sample phone call to request a school visit, tips for your visit and an observation form to fill out and return to the Response-Ability office when completed. If you have any questions regarding your school visit or observation, please feel free to contact us at (610) 626-1400 ext. 313 or e-mail ra@ravolunteers.com.

Be aware that RA requires accepted volunteers to visit and volunteer in an elementary school during the spring semester before Orientation/Teacher Training. This gives potential teachers added experience, exposure to the classroom, and an opportunity to get to know students at a specific grade level.

We look forward to hearing about your school visit!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Eager
Executive Director

Mary Scheuermann
Program Director



RESPONSE-ABILITY

Inner City School Observation Form

Applicant: _____

School Name/Location: _____

Grade Level Observed: _____ # of students: _____ Time of visit: _____

Observe the classroom, the students, the teacher, and the school.

1. What stood out to you on your visit?

2. Could you see yourself teaching in a school like this?

3. Look around the classroom. What is posted? (the schedule, calendar, homework, decorations, etc.)

4. What were the teacher's strengths and challenges (tone of voice, movement around the room, connection with students, etc.)?

5. What would you do the same/differently as the teacher in this particular classroom?