

Greenfield, WI STEP

Contacted Jessica Stein of Greenfield public schools, representing their Family and Community Engagement office (414-855-2035) on July 18th, 2024. Per Jessica, their STEP (Senior Tax Exchange Program) was designed to reach out to the community and involve citizens in public education while at the same time helping teachers with what they needed. The school Business Office and City take care of the financial piece.

Program started ten years ago, initially with 14 seniors. Up to 40 before pandemic in 2020. Then program returned this year and now 36 volunteers. The first two years the office advertised via Parks & Recreation and through Senior groups. But then participation spread by word of mouth with sufficient response.

2014: 14; 2015: 22; 2016: 28; 2017: 30; 2018: 35; 2019: 47; 2020-2023: 0; 2024: 36.

The program operates from 9am to 10:30am M-F. Activities include helping students with reading or math. Or they may assist with Library or Office clerical support. Seniors choose their placement option. The requirements are that you are at least 62 years old and/or are a home owner.

Teachers work with the participants and supervise them; keep track of their hours. Pay is \$6.50 per hour, up to \$500 tax credit per year. Compensation is by property parcel # and payment history. Hours sheets are collected in November. The School District cuts the City of Greenfield a check from the School District budget. For 2023, only about half of the participants got to a \$500 tax credit (about 77 hours of work per year). For 2018 their office was funded by the City for \$14,000, which covered their expenses.