

Community Relations

School Volunteers

The Board of Education greatly values and appreciates the work of volunteers in the school district. Parents and community residents are encouraged to take an active role in improving the schools by serving as school volunteers. Volunteers are especially useful for providing assistance at athletic and other extracurricular events, chaperoning school trips and helping in the classroom.

In an effort to maintain suitable safeguards in the use of volunteer services, the Board retains the right to screen and select all volunteers. Criminal background checks shall be requisite for all prospective volunteers. No person who is a “sex offender,” as defined by Connecticut General Statutes §54-250 may serve as a volunteer. No person who has a criminal record may serve as a volunteer except that the Superintendent of Schools may, at his/her discretion, waive this restriction if the nature and circumstances of the prior conviction do not pose any genuine threat to persons or property.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures to ensure effective screening, training and supervision of all volunteers. A list of all approved volunteers shall be maintained by the Superintendent’s office. Only volunteers on the Superintendent’s list may be used by the district.

Each volunteer shall serve under the direction of certificated staff members. Volunteers are expected to follow all Board policies, procedures and regulations. Any volunteer who fails to comply with such rules or follow directives from a certificated staff member may be removed from the list of approved volunteers by the Superintendent.

The Board of Education shall only indemnify volunteers from financial loss arising out of any claim of negligence to the extent required by Connecticut General Statutes §10-235(a). This protection applies to any volunteer on the list of approved volunteers who is carrying out a duty prescribed by the district and is operating under the direction of a certificated staff member, and any volunteer approved by the district to carry out the duties of a school bus safety monitor. However, the district is not obliged to provide this protection to a volunteer who: 1) does not act within the scope of his or her prescribed duties, 2) does not act under the direction of certificated staff member, or 3) was otherwise acting outside of his or her role as a volunteer in a school-based or school-operated program.

Volunteers will not be used to circumvent any obligations of the Board of Education under any current collective bargaining agreement. In addition, the district may not assign work to a volunteer that exclusively belongs to the employees within a bargaining unit.

Legal references: Connecticut General Statutes

§10-4g Parental and Community Involvement in Schools

§10-28b School Volunteers

§10-221 Boards of Education to Prescribe Rules

§10-221d Criminal History Records Checks of School Personnel

§10-235 Indemnification