

VOLUNTEERS IN THE SCHOOLS

The Board of Education recognizes the need to develop a School Volunteer Program to support District instructional programs and co-curricular activities. The purpose of the Volunteer Program is to:

- a) Assist employees in providing more individualization and enrichment of instruction or oversight of co-curricular activities;
- b) Building an understanding of school programs among interested citizens, thus stimulating widespread involvement in a total educational process; and
- c) Strengthen school and community relations through positive participation.

Volunteers are persons who are willing to donate their time and energies to assist principals, teachers and other school volunteers in implementing various phases of school programs. Volunteers serve without compensation or employee benefits, except to the extent they receive liability protection under the District's insurance program.

Volunteer assignments are initially approved by the building principal. Each building principal will be responsible for maintaining an up-to-date list of volunteers working in their building or with their students in co-curricular activities along with emergency contact information. School personnel who are responsible for a volunteer's activities will identify appropriate tasks and schedules for such activities as well as ensure that adequate supervision is in place. Additionally, such personnel must ensure that the volunteer does not have access to confidential student or personnel information.

The building principal will check volunteer names against the New York State Sex Offender Registry. Each building principal must forward a current volunteer list every six months to the Personnel Office.

The Superintendent or designee will be responsible for assisting schools with the volunteer programs.

The Superintendent will be responsible for reviewing this policy every three years and report the results to the Board of Education.

Legal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997
 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 14501 et seq.
 Education Law Sections 3023 and 3028
 Public Officers Law Section 18

Revised: August 1, 2012

Approved: August 26, 2015