

POLICY

3150
Community Relations
2016

SUBJECT: SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS AND MENTORS

The Board recognizes the need to develop a school volunteer program to support District instructional programs and extracurricular activities. The purpose of the volunteer and mentor programs will be to:

- a) Assist employees in providing more individualization and enrichment of instruction;
- b) Build an understanding of school programs among interested citizens, thus stimulating widespread involvement in a total educational process;
- c) Strengthen school/community relations through positive participation;
- d) Provide students, subject to written parental permission, with one on one interaction with community members.

Volunteers are persons who are willing to donate their time and energies to assist administrators, teachers, and other school personnel in implementing various phases of school programs. Mentors are community individuals willing to donate their time and talents to interacting with students and providing them with guidance and advice about how to best succeed in school, college, and beyond.

Volunteers and mentors shall serve in that capacity without compensation or employee benefits except for liability protection under the District's insurance program and in accordance with Education Law Section 3023 and Section 3028.

An application shall be filled out by each prospective volunteer and forwarded to the appropriate administrator for evaluation. The appropriate administrator will forward his/her recommendations concerning selection, placement and replacement of volunteers or mentors to the Superintendent or designee for final approval. Following approval, volunteers and mentors shall be placed on the list of approved volunteers. However, the Superintendent retains the right to approve or reject any volunteer applications submitted for consideration and the right to terminate the volunteer's service at any time.

The District may require volunteer and mentor applicants to consent to criminal and/or background checks. Volunteers and mentors that have not been cleared by criminal and/or background check must always be under the direct visual supervision of School District personnel when working with students. Individuals previously convicted of a crime or as a sex offender will not be considered as school volunteers or mentors.

Volunteers and mentors are required to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures. Administrative regulations will be developed to implement the terms of this policy.

Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, 42 United States Code (USC) Section 14501 et seq.
Education Law Sections 3023 and 3028
Public Officers Law Section 18
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC Section 1232g
34 CFR Part 99

NOTE: Refer also to Policy #6540 – Defense and Indemnification of Board Members and Employees

Adopted: 07/06/2016