

Policy 4229: ^Volunteers

Status: DRAFT

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The Governing Board encourages parents/guardians and other members of the community to share their time, knowledge and abilities with students, recognizes that volunteer assistance in schools can enrich the educational program, increase supervision of students, and contribute to school safety while strengthening the schools' relationships with the community. Volunteer assistance in schools enriches the educational program, enhances supervision of students and contributes to school safety while strengthening the schools' relationships with the community. The Board also encourages community members to serve as mentors providing support and motivation to students, parents/guardians and other members of the community to share their time, knowledge, and abilities with students.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a plan for recruiting, screening and placing volunteers, including strategies for reaching underrepresented groups of parents/guardians and community members. He/she may also recruit community members to serve as mentors to students and/or make appropriate referrals to community organizations.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to protect the safety of students and adults. These procedures shall include laws related to tuberculosis testing and may also include laws related to criminal record checks.

The Board prohibits harassment of any volunteer on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status. (Government Code 12940)

As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall provide Vvolunteers shall be provided with information about school goals, programs, and practices and shall receive an orientation and/or other training related to their specific responsibilities as appropriate. Employees who supervise volunteers shall ensure that volunteers are assigned meaningful responsibilities that capitalize on utilize their skills and expertise and maximize their contribution to the educational program.

Volunteers shall act in accordance with district policies, regulations and school rules. At their discretion, employees who supervise volunteers may ask any volunteer who violates school rules to leave the campus. Employees also may confer with the principal/designee regarding any such volunteers. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints regarding volunteers.

Volunteer work shall be limited to those projects that do not replace the normal duties of classified staff. The Board nevertheless encourages volunteers to work on short-term projects to the extent that they enhance the classroom or school and comply with employee negotiated agreements.

Volunteer maintenance work shall be limited to those projects that do not replace the normal maintenance duties of classified staff. The Board, nevertheless, encourages volunteers to work on short-term projects to the extent that they enhance the classroom or school, do not significantly increase maintenance workloads and comply with employee commitments and contracts.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for determining whether volunteers possess the qualifications, if any, required by law and administrative regulation for the types of duties they will perform.

Volunteers shall not be used to assist certificated staff in performing teaching or administrative responsibilities in place of regularly authorized classified employees who have been laid off. (Education Code 35021) Volunteers shall act in accordance with district policies, regulations, and school rules. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints regarding volunteers.

The Board encourages principals to develop a means for recognizing the contributions of each school's volunteers.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the district's volunteer assistance program.

Workers' Compensation Insurance

The Board desires to provide a safe environment for volunteers and minimize the district's exposure to liability.

Upon the adoption of a resolution by the Board, volunteers shall be entitled to workers' compensation benefits for any injury sustained while engaged in the performance of service for the district. (Labor Code 3364.5)
