

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Background

The District acknowledges that school volunteers, through their donation of time and talent, provide a valuable contribution to the successful operation of a school. These individuals offer important opportunities for the enrichment of the school experiences of both students and staff as well as a sense of personal fulfillment as a result of their involvement in the life of the school. The District will strive to promote an environment within schools which welcomes volunteers, provides them with meaningful work and which shows appreciation for their efforts.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Principal, in his or her sole discretion, which shall not be subject to appeal, may choose not to make use of any person as a volunteer, or remove any volunteer from the school if the Principal considers it advisable.

Procedures

1. The school staff shall ensure that:
 - 1.1 An atmosphere exists which is conducive to the involvement of volunteers;
 - 1.2 Adequate resources and support are allocated for the operation of a school volunteer program; and
 - 1.3 Active support is shown by staff and students toward the work of volunteers.
 - 1.4 Only responsible adults are assigned as volunteer coaches and supervisors for extracurricular activities and student coaches are used only in situations where there is responsible adult supervision.
 - 1.5 Parents are informed of all instances where a volunteer will be serving without the supervision/assistance of a teacher.
2. The Principal or designate will ensure:
 - 2.1 Volunteers possess personal qualities and skills appropriate to working within a school setting;
 - 2.2 An ongoing matching function occurs between expressed school needs and the demonstrated interests and talents of volunteers;
 - 2.3 Volunteers are involved in ways which allow them to feel a sense of purpose and accomplishment;
 - 2.4 Volunteers receive an orientation to the school, to the chosen or assigned work station and/or work activity, and to relevant District and school policies;
 - 2.5 Volunteers receive supervisory direction in their work and feedback concerning work performed and recognition for service provided; and

- 2.6 Risk management procedures are implemented, appropriate to the levels of unsupervised time the volunteer interacts with students, to ensure student safety.
 - 2.7 Criminal record checks are completed as required.
3. Individual staff members will:
- 3.1 Identify and communicate needs which could be met through assistance offered by a volunteer;
 - 3.2 Provide orientation, training and ongoing supervision to the volunteer who will assist the staff member; and
 - 3.3 Demonstrate appreciation for and provide feedback concerning the work undertaken by the volunteer.
4. School volunteers:
- 4.1 Must abide by applicable District/school policies, procedures and rules;
 - 4.2 Must hold in confidence all matters connected with and information gained from volunteer activity at a school;
 - 4.3 Must accept and respect the exercise of professional judgment, supervision and decision making by staff members and school administrators; and
 - 4.4 May be required to provide a criminal record check prior to participating in any school events as a volunteer.

Legal Reference: *Sections 17, 20, 22, 26.1, 65, 85 School Act*