

## **Volunteers**

### **DEFINITION**

Volunteers are persons who do not receive compensation for assisting in school or District programs. Volunteers are encouraged to use their time and effort to support school and District programs. The Superintendent shall develop procedures that encourage volunteers to assist in school and/or District programs and to facilitate effective communication with persons who volunteer.

Teacher education students or students enrolled in an educational institution and who participate in observations and educational activities under direct supervision of a local school teacher or administrator in a public school shall not be considered volunteers.

### **SUPERVISION**

All volunteers shall provide assistance only under the direction and supervision of a member of the professional administrative and teaching staff.<sup>1</sup>

Volunteers who assist in the District on a scheduled and/or continuing basis shall be provided with the same liability insurance coverage as a District employee and shall be provided with a written task description detailing responsibilities and expectations, as well as specific qualifications that may be required.

### **RECORDS CHECK**

The District shall conduct, at ~~volunteer~~~~District~~ expense, a state criminal records check on all volunteers who have contact with students on a regularly scheduled and/or continuing basis, or who have supervisory responsibility for children at a school site or on school-sponsored trips.

Pursuant to KRS 160.380, the Superintendent/designee also may require volunteers to submit to a state and national criminal (fingerprint) history background check and provide a letter from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating that there are no findings of substantiated child abuse or neglect on record. ~~With prior approval of the Superintendent/designee, the background checks will be conducted at District expense. Otherwise, except as stated previously, t~~The volunteer must pay for the background checks.

The required criminal records check shall be repeated every three (3) years for continuing volunteers. Persons convicted of or pleading guilty to any sexual offenses or any felony offenses shall not be utilized as volunteers.

No volunteer shall be utilized to supervise students, or deemed to have the authority to supervise students, unless the volunteer has been designated to supervise students by the Principal and approved by the Superintendent/designee, and the volunteer has undergone the required records check. ~~The Superintendent may also require such a volunteer to~~ and provided a letter from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services stating that there are no findings of substantiated child abuse or neglect on record.

Link to DPP-156 Central Registry Check and more information on the required Cabinet Letter:

<http://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/chapter30/33/Pages/3013RequestfromthePublicforCANChecksandCentralRegistryChecks.aspx>

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### **BASIS FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

The Superintendent/designee shall have the authority to disqualify any individual from participating in school and/or District programs as a volunteer.

Applicants with the following convictions shall not be authorized to volunteer:

1. Any conviction for sex-related offenses;
2. Any conviction for offenses against minors;
3. Any conviction for felony offenses except as provided in number 5 below;
4. Any conviction for deadly weapon-related offenses;
5. Any conviction for drug-related offenses, including felony drug offenses, within the past seven (7) years;
6. Any conviction for violent, abusive, threatening or harassment related offenses;
7. Other convictions determined by the Superintendent/designee to bear a reasonable relationship to the ability of the applicant to serve as a volunteer.

Volunteers shall immediately notify the school Principal or the Volunteer Coordinator if they are convicted of or plead guilty to one of the criminal offenses listed above.

### **ORIENTATION**

The Superintendent/designee shall develop orientation materials to be provided to all volunteers who have contact with students on a regularly scheduled or continuing basis. These materials shall include, but not be limited to, pertinent policies and safety and emergency procedures.

### **REFERENCES:**

<sup>1</sup>KRS 161.148  
KRS 160.380; KRS 161.044

### **RELATED POLICIES:**

03.5; 08.113; 08.1131