



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Volume 15 Number 2 Update-Ready for the Board
Title	Revised Policy - Vol. 15, No. 2 - August 2023 - VOLUNTEERS
Code	po8120
Status	

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8120 - VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Education recognizes that certain programs and activities can be enhanced through the use of volunteers who have particular knowledge or skills that ~~will~~ **may** be helpful to members of the professional staff responsible for the conduct of those programs and activities.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for recruiting community volunteers, reviewing their capabilities, and making appropriate placements. The Superintendent shall not be obligated to make use of volunteers whose abilities are not in accord with the Board's needs.

The Superintendent is to inform each volunteer that s/he:

- A. is required to abide by all Board policies and District guidelines while on duty as a volunteer;
- B. ~~will~~ **shall** be covered under the District's liability policy but the District cannot provide any type of health insurance to cover illness or accident incurred while service as a volunteer, nor is the person eligible for workers' compensation;
- C. must abide by and comply with the provisions of West Virginia Code 6B-2-5 regarding the required ethical conduct of public officials, employees, and volunteers;
- D. must complete training focused on developing skills, knowledge, and capabilities related to preventing, recognizing, and responding to students' self-harm behaviors and eating disorders if the volunteer might come into contact with a student. Volunteers must complete the required training every three (3) years. The training may be administered virtually or through self-review of materials and resources provided by the State Board.

School Volunteers

Each staff member shall submit to the principal the name and address of each potential volunteer whose presence ~~will involve~~ **involves** contact with students. The principal shall determine whether the volunteer's name appears on the sexual offender registry list that has been supplied by the Superintendent. The principal shall notify the Superintendent of any potential volunteer who is identified as a registered sex offender. The Superintendent shall provide written notice to the offender that he/she may not be on school property without prior written authorization. The Superintendent shall also inform the principal and employees that the individual may not be used as a volunteer.

School Volunteer Screening

The Superintendent shall develop a volunteer application form that includes mandatory reporting of prior arrests or convictions of any offense that involves misconduct toward a minor. Any person who fails or refuses to complete this portion of the volunteer application form shall not be permitted to serve as a volunteer.

Students and Parents of Students

A sex offender registrant who is the parent or guardian of a student shall be permitted to participate or volunteer in appropriate parent or guardian activities, unless prohibited by court order. However, the Superintendent may direct that appropriate measures be taken to lessen the risk of the unsupervised presence of registered sex offenders in schools or school-sponsored activities. Alternative arrangements may be made for bus and walking routes to and from school, recess and physical education periods, or any other activity in order to protect students.

The Superintendent shall inform all volunteers who work or apply to work unsupervised with children on a regular basis of the need to display appropriate behavior at all times, and that ~~[NOTE: CHOOSE OPTION 1 OR 2]~~

[x] OPTION 1

they ~~may~~ **shall** be required to provide a set of fingerprints at any time so that a criminal records check can be conducted. If a criminal records check is then conducted, it ~~will~~ **shall** be done as a condition of continued service as a volunteer and will be at () the Board's expense. **(x)** the volunteer's expense. ~~[END OF OPTION]~~

[] [OPTION 2]

~~they will have to~~ **shall** provide a set of fingerprints so that a criminal records check can be conducted ~~()~~ at the Board's expense ~~()~~ and that they have to pay the costs associated with the criminal records check ~~[END OF OPTION]~~ either before they can begin their duties, or as a condition of continued service as a volunteer at the discretion of the Board.

~~[NOTE: END OF OPTIONS]~~

If a criminal records check indicates that a volunteer has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a crime, or if criminal convictions are disclosed on the volunteer application form, the Superintendent, in his/her sole discretion, may determine that the presence of the volunteer in the schools would present an unreasonable risk to the safety and welfare of students. In such case, the volunteer ~~will~~ **shall** be informed that he/she may not serve as a volunteer. If a volunteer engages in behavior in violation of policies, written or oral instructions by school personnel, or engages in any behavior that is adverse to student safety and welfare, or which has the potential to adversely affect student safety or welfare, the Superintendent, in his/her sole discretion, may determine to discontinue service by the volunteer.

It is a felony offense for any school employee or volunteer to engage in sexual intercourse, sexual intrusion, or sexual contact with any student in the school where the person is employed regardless of age.

Pursuant to State law, any person who has been found guilty of sexual assault in the first degree or sexual abuse in the first degree are prohibited from supervising or being responsible for supervising groups of children, including, but not limited to religious organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H organizations, sporting and scholastic teams, music, sporting, and theatre groups and camps, and summer day camps pursuant to State law.

Legal Reference:

WV Code 6B-2-5

WV Code 61-8B-1

WV Code 62-12-26(c)

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