

The board recognizes the valuable contributions that school volunteers make to the learning process and educational goals of the school system. Instructional programs are enhanced through the contributions of student's parents and families, community members, and local business and industry. These volunteers contribute time, resources, and expertise that assist the school system to reach the goal of providing a sound basic education to all children.

The superintendent shall provide for parents to be notified of their right to take four hours of unpaid leave from their jobs every year in order to volunteer in their child's schools as stated in G.S. 95-28.3.

The board encourages school administrators to develop and implement plans for utilizing school volunteers. The superintendent and designees will be responsible for implementing and supervising school volunteer programs. School volunteer programs must provide the following:

1. adequate screening of volunteers based upon the amount of contact they will have with students;
2. the requirement that volunteers comply with policy 5020, Visitors to the Schools;
3. reasonable supervision of volunteers based at least in part upon the amount of contact they will have with students; and
4. adequate training of volunteers, including familiarizing volunteers with applicable laws, board policies (including policy 4040/7310, Staff-Student Relations), administrative procedures and school rules.

Volunteers may be subject to background, criminal record and reference checks to the same extent as school system employees. Principals may limit or terminate the activities of a volunteer in the best interest of the school.

All school volunteers will be expected to be professional and dependable in their volunteer activities.

Legal References: G.S. 95-28.3; 115C-36, -47; -203 to -209.1

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Staff-Student Relations (policy 4040/7310), Visitors to the Schools (policy 5020)

Administrative Procedure: Yes

Adopted: April 9, 1998 to become effective July 1, 1998

Revised: November 8, 2007, March 12, 2009, December 14, 2017, May 14, 2020