

VOLUNTEERS

Category: R

A. **General Policy.** The School Board supports and encourages the use of parent and community member volunteers in our schools to assist school and District staff in meeting the needs of students and serving the school community at large.

B. Definitions

1. **Volunteer.** Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), “volunteers” are persons who perform service (1) without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for the services rendered (reimbursements, and modest stipends excepted); (2) have offered their services freely and without pressure or coercion from any employer, and (3) are not otherwise employed by the District to perform the same type of services for which the individual intends to volunteer.

This expansive definition includes such services whether for classroom or other student programs or activities, or for services such as committee work, chaperones, trades work, etc..

“Designated Volunteer” as used in this policy shall have the same definition as in Board policy GBCD - Background Investigation and Criminal Records Check. Before a person may volunteer in a position or perform a function falling within the definition of Designated Volunteer, such person must undergo a background investigation and criminal history Records check as described in policy GBCD. Additionally, as required by RSA 189:13-a, XII and policy GBCE, all Designated Volunteers must receive training and information relative to child abuse prevention.

C. **Coaches.** All coaches, including assistant coaches, whether receiving a stipend or not, are Designated Volunteers as defined in paragraph B above. Additionally, head coaches of team or individual sports must be in compliance with all regulations and certification requirements for that sport as set by NHIAA or the applicable organization within which the athletes/members compete or participate. Assistant coaches must meet the same requirements as head coaches or be under the direct supervision of the head coach.

D. **Volunteer Application, Selection and Assignment.** Persons wishing to volunteer at the District should complete a Volunteer Application form describing their skills, interests and availability. Such forms will be made available at the Principal’s or SAU office.

Volunteer selection shall be made based on the qualifications and availability of the volunteer.

Volunteers shall be provided appropriate training at the building level consistent with their tasks, existing District standards and applicable laws and Board policies. This training shall be coordinated under the leadership of the principal or other supervising administrator. At a

minimum, such training will include (1) general job responsibilities; (2) information about school facilities, routines, and procedures, including safety and evaluation; (3) work schedule and place of work; (4) expected relationship to regular staff; and (5) information on non-discrimination and prohibition against teaching or advocating discriminatory concepts.

Volunteer assignments shall be made by the building or administrator responsible for that program, or the appointing authority in the event of a committee.

Volunteers shall be assigned only to those staff members who have requested volunteer assistance through their administrative supervisor (e.g., principal, athletic director, facilities director) or to administrative or district level committees.

- E. **Supervision.** Volunteers may not be assigned to perform any services within school buildings or during school activities during times that students may reasonably be expected to be in attendance, unless the volunteer is either a Designated Volunteer (i.e., has undergone a background investigation and Criminal History Records Check, or is under the immediate direction of a staff or administration member within the pertinent program).
- F. **Volunteer Responsibilities and Duties.** Other than committee volunteers, and head coaches/directors, volunteers may only serve in the capacity of assistants. Instructional services shall be rendered only under the supervision of certified staff.

All volunteers will sign a confidentiality agreement provided by administration and shall refrain from discussing the performance or actions of a student except with the student's teacher, counselor, Principal, or other school district employee who has a legitimate educational purpose for discussing such information.

Volunteers with special talents, hobbies or experiences may share those with students in a suitable educational setting scheduled by the staff or administrative member responsible for supervising the class, activity, program or project.

Volunteers will refer to their immediate supervisor or other regular staff member for final solution of any student problems which arise, whether of an instructional, medical or operational nature.

- G. **Volunteer Termination.** Volunteers serve at the pleasure of the District. Except as may be provided in an individual volunteer's agreement, services of a volunteer may be terminated, without notice, at any time when circumstances in the judgment of the supervising administrator warrant termination.
- H. **Implementation.** The Superintendent is authorized to develop and administer any regulations or procedures s/he deems necessary or appropriate to implement this policy.

Legal References:

29 U.S.C. 201-219, Fair Labor Standards Act

29 C.F.R. § 553.101, "Volunteer" defined (state and local governments).

RSA 189:13-a, School Employee and Volunteer Criminal History Records Check

RSA 193:40, Prohibition on Teaching Discrimination

*RSA 354-A:32, Prohibition on the Content of Government Programs and Speech
RSA 508:17, Volunteers; Nonprofit Organizations; Liability Limited.*

SAU #7 Policy Committee: Recommended for Adoption – February 22, 2018

Colebrook School Board: Adopted – May 5, 2020

Pittsburg School Board: Adopted – May 11, 2020

Stewartstown School Board: Adopted – May 4, 2020

SAU #7 Board Revisions Approved: August 11, 2022