The Cleveland County Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the valuable contributions that school volunteers make to the learning process and the educational goals of the school system. Instructional programs are enhanced through the contributions of students’ parents, 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 Board encourages school administrators to develop and implement plans and procedures for utilizing school volunteers. Screening, training and supervision of volunteers is the responsibility of the school principal. The principal is responsible for ensuring that all volunteers who may have unsupervised contact with students or who volunteer routinely on school property complete a volunteer application and have an approved criminal background check prior to beginning volunteer duties. All volunteers are subject to criminal background checks.

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 Board policy on 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, administrative procedures, and school rules.

Volunteers are bound by the standards of conduct applicable to school employees. All school volunteers are expected to be professional and dependable in their volunteer activities. Volunteers serve at the pleasure of the school system. Volunteer status may be revoked or denied by the Superintendent or designee or principal in the best interest of the school system.

Schools are encouraged to notify parents/guardians of their entitlement under state law to four hours of leave each year to participate in activities at their child’s school.

Schools are encouraged to identify effective roles for volunteers, offer appropriate training, and assess and recognize the efforts of volunteers each year. For volunteers who serve the school on a regular basis, the principal or designee shall provide an orientation to include an outline of responsibilities, guidance about potential confidentiality issues, and guidelines for responding to emergencies.

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

Adopted: June 10, 2019

Replaces: Board policy 2110, Use of Volunteers