

Descriptor Term:
SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Descriptor Code:
5.0150

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

Cross References: 1.3100/4.3100 Parental Involvement; 5.0200 Visitors to the Schools

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 participation of students' parents, community members, local business and industry. These volunteers contribute time, resources, and expertise that assist the school system in reaching the goal of providing a sound basic education to all children.

In accordance with G.S. 95-28.3, any employee who is a parent, guardian or person in loco parentis may take up to four hours of unpaid leave from their employment every fiscal year to volunteer in their child's school. The superintendent shall notify any employee who is a parent, guardian or person in loco parentis of a child of this right.

There is no requirement that the employer pay an employee while taking this leave. However, the local school district may allow the employee to use eligible accrued leave in lieu of non-paid parental involvement leave. Leave granted for this purpose is subject to the following conditions:

1. The leave shall be at a mutually agreed upon time between employer and employee,
2. The employer may require an employee to provide a written request at least 48 hours before the time desired for the leave, and
3. The employer may require that the employee furnish written verification from the child's school that the employee attended or as otherwise involved at the school during the time of the leave.

The board encourages school-administrators to develop and implement plans and procedures for utilizing school volunteers. The superintendent and his/ her designee are 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 5.0200 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.

The superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to provide direction for the schools as they implement plans for utilizing school volunteers.

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