

SCREENING OF SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS 3-29

The school district will make every effort to obtain volunteers who contribute to the intellectual, physical and/or emotional progress of students, and to the well-being of the schools. Screening of volunteers is one method to help ensure protection of students and effective placement of volunteers. The screening of volunteers is crucial due to the vulnerability of children. The screening process will also help identify individuals who pose an unacceptable risk to the students, the school district, or the members of the community. The Superintendent, or designee, has the authority to limit or exclude individuals from volunteering based on information received on a criminal records background check. (Refer to administrative guidelines.) Union County Public Schools reserves the right to conduct a criminal records check at any time on any volunteer with the school system.

Screening will help the district:

- Assure the appropriate placement of individuals;
- Identify individuals who would create an unacceptable risk of being placed in certain situations;
- Exclude dangerous individuals.

School personnel responsible for screening volunteers will respect the rights of volunteers. Furthermore, this policy will not be used to screen out people who are not dangerous but who may not meet some perceived ideal standard of a volunteer. The Board extends its equal employment opportunity practices to volunteers and does so without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or handicap, except where sex, age or physical requirements are essential occupational qualifications.

N.C.G.S. 95-28.3 provides the opportunity for parents/guardians to volunteer in the schools for four hours per year. Parents should check with their employers regarding guidelines on how they may take advantage of this opportunity.

LEGAL REF.: G.S. 115C-36, - 47; 115C, art.13 G.S. 95-28.3

CROSS REF.: Board Policy 5-8, Parent Involvement

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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