

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the qualifications to become a school volunteer?

The qualifications to become a school volunteer are a personal desire to help students and the school, willingness to follow school procedures, and the ability to make a definite time commitment. A teaching background is not required as volunteers work under the direction and guidance of the school staff.

May I bring my preschool child with me?

Some schools allow volunteers to bring their preschool-age children with them when they volunteer. Preschoolers should not be in any instructional settings with students, as the distraction is detrimental to teaching and learning. Also, much of the equipment used in schools, such as copiers, paper cutters, and laminators, can be hazardous to young children. Check with the principal for the school's procedures.

What type of student information is considered confidential?

Volunteers help represent the school to the community. We want you to talk about your school and your involvement. Occasionally, you may see or hear confidential information regarding student grades or behavior. This information is confidential and should never be discussed outside of the school.

May I choose the teacher with whom I wish to work?

Volunteers are placed only in classrooms where teachers have specifically requested assistance. The principal and volunteer coordinator work with staff to determine the placement of volunteers.

What if I am not happy with the job assigned to me?

Feel free to say so and communicate with the school volunteer coordinator. Every effort is made to place volunteers in a situation that matches the needs of both the volunteer and the students of the school.

What do I do about discipline?

Disciplinary action is the legal responsibility of administrators and school staff. Volunteers should not be put in a position of having to enforce discipline. If you are having a problem, immediately inform the teacher or appropriate staff member.

What should I do if I am unable to be at the school at my assigned time?

As soon as you are aware that you will be unable to be at the school at your assigned time, contact the school to let them know. The teacher has planned his/her schedule according to the time that you have agreed to help. If possible, please keep your assigned schedule.

Why is it important for me to sign in and out each time I volunteer at a school?

There are many reasons this requirement is necessary: verification of volunteer service, liability purposes, location of volunteers in cases of emergency, and recognition of volunteers for awards.

I'd like to volunteer, but I can't offer my services on a regular basis. Can I still volunteer?

Yes! You may be a special activity volunteer who is involved with special school projects, such as helping with a PTA event, assisting your child's class with a field trip, or from home.