

The Watauga 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 superintendent shall provide for parents to be notified of their right to take four hours of leave from their jobs every year in order to volunteer in their child’s school as stated in G.S. 95-28.3.

The board encourages school administrators to develop and implement plans and procedures for utilizing school volunteers. The superintendent and designees 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 5020, Visitors to the Schools;
3. reasonable supervision of volunteers based upon the amount of student contact they will have and on other appropriate factors; and
4. adequate training of volunteers, including familiarizing volunteers with applicable laws, board policies, (including policy 4040/7310, Staff-Student Relations) administrative procedures and school rules.
5. Registered Sex Offenders are banned from all Watauga County Schools property except under the conditions set forth in board policies 5022, Registered Sex Offenders and 4260, Student Sex Offenders.

All school volunteers are expected to be professional and dependable in their volunteer activities. All school visitors, including school volunteers, must report immediately to the administrative office at the school to request and receive permission to be in the school. If any school employee becomes aware that an individual is in a school without having received permission, the employee must direct the individual to the administrative office or notify the principal, depending on the circumstances.

Legal References: G.S. 95.28.3; 115C-36, -47, -203 to -209.1

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 4002), Staff-Student Relations (policy 4040/7310), Visitors to the Schools (policy 5020), Registered Sex Offenders (policy 5022), Student Sex Offenders (policy 4260)

Adopted: February 8, 2016

Replaces: Policy 2.04.50, School Volunteers

Revised: June 8, 2020