School District Volunteers

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain a volunteer program to support district instructional programs and extracurricular activities. The purpose of the volunteer program shall be to:

1. Assist employees in providing more individualized instruction.
2. Enrich the instructional program.
3. Build an understanding of school programs among interested citizens, thus stimulating widespread involvement in the district's programs.
4. Strengthen school/community relations.

A volunteer is a person who works without pay on an occasional or regular basis at school sites or other educational facilities to support the efforts of professional personnel. Such a volunteer worker shall serve in that capacity without employee benefits of any type. Pursuant to state law, some volunteers may be covered by Workers' Compensation and liability protection.

Volunteers may be involved in many facets of district operations, from working with students on a one-to-one basis under the immediate supervision of a licensed employee to performing tasks not involving students. Tasks may include services in the library, classroom, music, school play, pre-kindergarten programs, or assisting/chaperoning on field trips and similar activities under the immediate supervision of a licensed employee. Volunteers are not permitted to work with confidential student or staff records or information. Volunteers may not distribute, use, discuss, or read material to students that the Principal has not previously approved.

Services of volunteers may be accepted by the Board, the superintendent, central office administrators, principals and assistant principals, directors or persons designated by them to handle this responsibility.

Volunteers are expected to comply with all Board and district policies and regulations.
Volunteers shall work with students under the immediate supervision and direction of a licensed employee. Volunteers shall be required to complete an application for volunteer service and must be approved in writing by the director of personnel or designee. The completed application shall be retained by the Department of Personnel. These requirements apply to all volunteer services, regardless of the program, event, or activity, whether for a single occasion or on an intermittent or regular basis. Volunteer service is a privilege that may be granted, denied, or revoked at any time at the District's sole discretion.

Background checks
Since state law requires the school district to conduct background checks of all prospective employees of the district, the Board has determined that the need exists for similar background checks annually of volunteers who work with the school district's students.

Prior to adding an individual's name to the school district's list of authorized volunteers, the school district shall conduct a background check of the individual at the district's expense. Such background checks may include but not be limited to making an inquiry to the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, and/or other law enforcement agency to determine if there is any information on record indicating that the individual should not be working with children.

Persons failing to provide the necessary information to conduct such annual background checks shall not be added to the authorized list. The decision by the district concerning an individual's fitness to volunteer shall be final.

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 8-40-202 *(Workers' Compensation Act)*
C.R.S. 22-32-109.7 *(specific board duties regarding hiring inquiries and reporting)*
C.R.S. 24-10-103 (4)(a) *(Colorado Governmental Immunity Ac*

Adopted: November 19, 2024

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Pueblo County School District 70 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability, need for special education services, genetic information, pregnancy or childbirth status, or other status protected by law in admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in its education programs or activities. Additionally, a lack of English language skills is not a barrier to admission or participation in activities. Inquiries about ADA, Section 504, Title VI, and Title IX may be addressed to the Superintendent of Schools, 24951 US Highway 50 East, Pueblo, Colorado 81006 719-295-6548 or nondiscrimination@district70.org

Pueblo County School District 70, Pueblo, Colorado