

Volunteering in the Lakeside Union School District

The Lakeside Union School District values and appreciates the involvement of parents, guardians, family members, and community members in our schools. Volunteers provide important support to our students and staff, and we welcome opportunities for individuals to become involved in school activities.

At the same time, the District has a responsibility to maintain a safe environment for all students and to comply with applicable California laws governing individuals who work or volunteer with children. Volunteer requirements may differ depending upon the **frequency, duration, and nature of the volunteer service**.

Occasional Volunteers

An **occasional volunteer** is generally a parent, guardian, family member, or community member who assists periodically and does not meet the time threshold for a "regular volunteer."

Examples may include:

- Assisting with a classroom activity or special event
- Helping a teacher with classroom materials or copying
- Participating in an occasional school celebration or activity
- Volunteering periodically for school or parent organization activities
- Assisting with other short-term activities under the direction of school staff

Occasional volunteers who do not exceed the regular-volunteer time thresholds described below are not subject to the same requirements that California law establishes for regular volunteers. Depending upon the nature of the assignment, however, the District may require additional clearance or documentation to ensure student safety.

All volunteers must receive approval from the school before beginning a volunteer assignment and must follow school visitor, supervision, confidentiality, and safety procedures.

Regular Volunteers

California Business and Professions Code section 18975, enacted as part of Assembly Bill 506, defines a **regular volunteer** as an individual who:

- Is **18 years of age or older**; and
- Has **direct contact with or supervision of children for more than 16 hours per month or 32 hours per year**.

California law requires covered regular volunteers to complete child abuse and neglect identification and reporting training and to undergo an appropriate background check.

Accordingly, individuals who will serve as regular volunteers with the District may be required to complete:

- **Live Scan/background clearance**
- **Mandated reporter/child abuse prevention training**
- **Tuberculosis (TB) clearance**, when applicable to the nature or frequency of the volunteer assignment
- Any other legally required or District-required safety documentation

The District can assist volunteers in completing these requirements. Mandated reporter training may be provided through the District's online training platform, and the District Nurse can assist volunteers with applicable TB clearance requirements.

Student Safety Comes First

Volunteer requirements are not intended to discourage parents or community members from participating in our schools. Rather, they are designed to balance meaningful parent and community involvement with the District's responsibility to provide appropriate safeguards for students.

Volunteer assignments and clearance requirements may vary based upon factors such as the amount of time spent volunteering, the level of student contact or supervision involved, and the specific activity being performed.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your child's school office before beginning your volunteer service. School staff will help determine whether your planned service is considered occasional or regular and will provide information regarding any clearance or training requirements that apply.

Thank you for your willingness to support the students and staff of the Lakeside Union School District.