

Community Relations

School Volunteers

The Ledyard Board of Education recognizes that volunteers can make many valuable contributions to our schools. The Board endorses a program encouraging parents/guardians and community residents to take an active role in improving our schools and to become volunteers in the schools, subject to suitable regulations and safeguards.

The Board encourages the use of volunteers to:

- Increase the students' educational achievement,
- Provide enrichment experiences for students,
- Increase the effective utilization of staff time and skills,
- Give more individual attention to students, and
- Promote greater community involvement in the education of Ledyard students.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures for securing and screening educational resource persons and school volunteers. These procedures shall include the requirement that all approved volunteers shall be under the supervision of a certified staff member when volunteering in Ledyard Public Schools.

All volunteers shall be subject to and abide by Board policy while serving in that capacity. Volunteers shall not discipline or otherwise punish students; all student behavior issues shall be brought to the attention of a staff member for action.

Annually, Principals shall submit to the Superintendent a list of all regular volunteers serving in their school.

Persons Prohibited from Serving as Volunteers

Any person who is required to register as a "sex offender" under sections 54-251 through 54-254, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, or the statutes and laws of any other state or jurisdiction, shall not be allowed to serve as a volunteer in any Ledyard Public school in any capacity. Additionally, any person who is a convicted felon shall not be allowed to volunteer in the schools. These prohibitions do not require the administration to conduct background checks on all volunteers; however, the administration shall use such screening methods as are readily available (e.g., reviewing sex offender notification lists provided by the Ledyard Police) to minimize the possibility of a "sex offender" or convicted felon being allowed to serve as a volunteer.

A person may be prohibited from service as a volunteer when the Principal determines that such action would be in the best interest of the students and/or the school. Principals shall inform the Superintendent when any person is prohibited from serving as a volunteer, including those situations in which a previously authorized volunteer is no longer allowed to serve.

Related Policies:

- 1110.1 – Parent Involvement
- 1210 – School and Parent/Community Group Relationships
- 1250 – School Visitors
- 3516.4 – Sex Offender Notification

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

10-4g. Parental and community involvement in schools; model program; school-based teams.

10-28b. School volunteers; information and assistance about; state-wide coordinator; state plan.

10-220. Duties of boards of education.

10-235. Indemnification of teachers, board members, employees and certain volunteers and students in damage suits; expenses of litigation.

Title 42, United States Code, Chapter 139 – *Volunteer Protection Act of 1997*

Title 42, United States Code, Section 14071 – *Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Program*

Policy Adopted: February 1, 2006

LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut