

**School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees****Screening Procedure**

The following procedure has been established for screening volunteers, interns and other non-employees (“volunteers”) within the Bethany Public School District. For the purpose of this procedure, volunteers are defined as those individuals who volunteer their time to assist in schools for the benefit of the student body with the express knowledge, consent and direction of a District employee. Student interns are defined as individuals currently enrolled in a post-secondary program for which an authorized internship is required or for which the student may be granted credit as part of an approved course of study. As with other volunteers, all student interns must be approved in advance by the building administrator or his/her designee and must be under the direction of a District employee.

This procedure identifies those situations in which an individual may be required to submit to state and federal criminal record checks and a record check of the Department of Children and Families (“DCF”) Child Abuse and Neglect Registry within ten (10) days of application and/or request to volunteer within the District. All results must be received by the Superintendent’s or his/her designee before the volunteer may commence his/her services. No person who is a required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on the DCF registry, may volunteer in the District.

**Screening Procedure Definitions**

The District has identified two classifications of volunteers: Group I and Group II.

**Group I**

Volunteers will be classified in Group I when they assist school staff members with school activities in the presence of a District employee. Background checks will not be required of Group I volunteers. Group I volunteers are those who assist school staff members with school activities such as those listed below:

- a. assisting in a classroom, cafeteria, or library when a staff member is present; or
- b. accompanying a class on a field trip during the school day with a staff member; or
- c. helping in the school office during regular school hours; or
- d. assisting in the cafeteria or library during regular school hours; or
- e. assisting during extracurricular events, i.e., dances, fairs, open house, events, etc.

**Group II**

Volunteers will be classified in Group II when they provide services to students when not in the direct presence of a District employee. Group II volunteers will be required to complete a consent form regarding the release of information concerning any prior or pending criminal offenses, and such volunteers will be required to submit to a record check of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Abuse and Neglect Registry. Group II volunteers are those who engage in activities such as those listed below:

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Regulation 1212(b)

- a. accompanying a class on a field trip in which the plans include that students be divided into small groups supervised solely by the volunteer chaperone for any length of time; or
- b. chaperoning an overnight field trip; or
- c. working in direct contact with students without the direct presence of a District employee;
- d. working as a student intern; or
- e. coaching.

Upon receipt of DCF Abuse and Neglect Registry results indicating that the volunteer is involved in an abuse or neglect investigation or that the volunteer is listed as a perpetrator of abuse or neglect on the Registry, the Superintendent or his/her designee will notify the volunteer of the results of the registry check and will provide an opportunity for the volunteer to respond to the results of the registry check. No person who is a required to register as a sex offender under state or federal law, or whose name is currently listed on the DCF registry, may be approved to volunteer within the District.

When a criminal record check of a volunteer reveals a criminal conviction, whether disclosed or undisclosed on the volunteer's consent form, the Superintendent will make a case-by-case determination as to whether to allow the individual to volunteer in the District. Prior to any such decision by the Superintendent or his/her designee, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall inform the volunteer and shall provide an opportunity for the volunteer to respond. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the falsification or omission of any information on a volunteer consent form, including, but not limited to, information concerning criminal convictions or pending criminal charges, may be grounds for the Superintendent or designee to prohibit the individual from becoming a volunteer.

### **Prior Approval Required**

All school volunteers (including student interns or other non-employee working in the schools) must be approved in advance by the building principal or his/her designee. The school District, acting through the appropriate building administrator or his/her designee, reserves the right to discontinue or disallow the services of any volunteer at any time at the discretion of the administration.

### **Sign-in Procedure**

All volunteers must report to the school office upon arrival and provide their driver's license to sign-in. Volunteers must indicate the purpose of their visit and include any other information (i.e. destination; etc.) that is requested. Additionally, volunteers will be provided with identification badges, which must be displayed at all times during each visit.

Legal References:      Connecticut General Statutes § 10-4g  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-235  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 54-250 et seq.

Regulation approved: October 21, 2015