

704.2AP – Volunteers

Purpose

The involvement of authorized community volunteers in Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools provides an excellent source of support and enhancement of the learning program. While welcoming volunteer participation, the district is responsible for establishing safety procedures related to school volunteers.

Definitions

The use of volunteers must have a specified purpose. **All volunteers, of any type must complete a criminal record check (See Appendix A).** Volunteers normally perform one of the following roles:

1. Support Volunteers: persons, typically parents or guardians, who directly or indirectly assist teachers in achieving educational objectives by providing non-educational services such as the supervision of field trips, supporting class projects or activities, chaperones, etc.
2. Program Volunteers: community, parent or guardian volunteers used on a regular or sustained basis involving significant direct student contact, shall complete the School Volunteer Registration Form (Appendix B) before being placed in a school or beginning service as a volunteer. No program volunteer may be placed in a school until the district, through the Principal, has received a completed registration form.
3. Unsupervised Volunteers: volunteers not under the direct supervision of a teacher or administrator must complete the School Volunteer Registration Form and must complete a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Search (available at your local RCMP detachment) before being placed in a school.

Procedure

1. Pertaining to all volunteers in a school:
 - 1.1 The Principal shall direct and be responsible for all aspects of the volunteer program in the school.
 - 1.2 Volunteers shall:
 - 1.2.1 serve only as authorized by the Principal and staff;
 - 1.2.2 assume responsibility for their own transportation to and from the school;
 - 1.2.3 participate in any orientation or inservice in any area deemed advisable;
 - 1.2.4 agree to provide supportive service for those students assigned by the teacher; and
 - 1.2.5 submit a Criminal Record Check.

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- 1.3 Volunteers supplement and enrich programs and services in the school district but will not substitute for employee duties, responsibilities and functions.
 - 1.4 Volunteers will be assigned only to those teachers requesting assistance.
 - 1.5 No volunteer will have access to confidential information regarding students.
 - 1.6 The selection of students to participate in a program shall be made by the teacher and Principal.
 - 1.7 Evaluation procedures for volunteers shall be established by school personnel in cooperation with the volunteers, and shall be continuous.
 - 1.8 All sessions in which volunteers participate shall be on school property or in authorized school activities accompanied by a teacher.
 - 1.9 A volunteer's relationship with the students shall be limited to the school situation. Under no conditions shall volunteers enter into discussion with parents/guardians regarding a student's work.
 - 1.10 Since volunteers work in supportive roles, they shall not criticize the students, the students' families, the teachers, principal or school.
 - 1.11 As far as possible, volunteers selected shall have the necessary skills and knowledge that the teacher deems appropriate in light of the specific objectives of the particular program.
 - 1.12 Participation in Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) or similar activities that occur outside of school hours and are not school-sponsored activities are not covered under the provisions of this volunteer policy.
 - 1.13 Volunteer Drivers must complete a Volunteer Driver Application (Appendix C).
2. Pertaining to volunteers sponsored by service organizations:
 - 2.1 Defined as 'Program Volunteers', all regulations stated in Section 1 above shall apply.
 - 2.2 Volunteers shall be recruited, screened and assigned only by community organizations that have the approval of the Superintendent.
 - 2.3 Parents/guardians of participating students shall be fully informed regarding the objectives of the program, times and length of sessions.
 - 2.4 All publicity statements regarding the volunteer service programs shall be made or approved by the principal of the school.
3. Pertaining to volunteers sponsored by Post-Secondary or Secondary Schools:
 - 3.1 Defined as 'Program Volunteers', all regulations stated in Section 1 above shall apply.
 - 3.2 The selection of volunteers shall be made through the recommendation of the Post-Secondary professor in charge, and with the approval of the School Principal.
 - 3.3 For procedures regarding Research Projects refer to Administrative Procedure *704.7AP Research in Schools*.

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- 3.4 Volunteers sponsored by a secondary school shall be arranged through the recommendation of the principal and with the approval of the principal of the cooperating elementary school.
4. Special Provisions Governing Community Coaches
- 4.1 A community coach is a coach of an athletic school team who is not an employee of the school district. The use of a community coach in a school program requires special considerations related to supervision, evaluation and risk management.
- 4.2 Elementary level:
- 4.2.1 A community coach must have a staff sponsor who may be a principal, vice-principal, teacher, or school district employee, unless exempted by the principal or vice-principal, based on the assurance that the volunteer has completed the appropriate screening and has recognized involvement in the school's program.
- 4.2.2 Staff sponsors are expected to be in the building during practices; if unavailable, they must arrange for a designated staff member to be on site. Staff sponsors must be present at all games, tournaments, and travel events. The principal or vice-principal may waive this requirement, except for events involving overnight travel. Parents are to be advised of all travel and supervision arrangements.
- 4.2.3 Community coaches are selected by the school administration in collaboration with staff members and/or athletic directors. Community coaches will be considered providing they have the necessary ability and appropriate level of training required for the sport and associated age level. In addition, community coaches are subject to the same screening process as other volunteer applicants, including a Criminal Record Check.
- 4.2.4 Student coaches and coaches less than nineteen years of age must be under the direct supervision of an employee sponsor at all times.
- 4.2.5 Student teachers operate, as in all other aspects of their placement, under the supervision of their sponsor teacher.
- 4.3 Secondary level:
- 4.3.1 Principals must ensure that secondary level community coaches meet the guidelines provided by BC School Sports' Competitive Rules & Regulations – Section IV – Part A: General Guidelines, section 2A: Community Coaches Guidelines.

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eCRC New Process Criminal Record Check for School Volunteers

Dear prospective school volunteer,

Thank you, on behalf of Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS), for supporting your school and the district through your volunteerism. It is with your support that district schools are able to expand curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for children.

The Ministry of Justice, through their Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) will conduct a vulnerable sector check **at no cost to you** through a streamlined online format. Vulnerable sector checks are used by prospective volunteers who are requesting clearance to work with children and/or vulnerable adults in the school district. This online process is to determine if you have any record suspensions (formerly known as pardons) for sexual offences. Once you are provided clearance through the CRRP, **the criminal record check clearance is good for a period of five (5) consecutive years** from the date of issue, unless a criminal offence should occur.

We must inform you that if you happen to have the same combination of gender and date-of-birth as a known sex offender whose record has been suspended, you must then be fingerprinted to confirm your identity. This is a federal RCMP requirement that applies to all Canadians. Most people who are fingerprinted in a vulnerable sector check do not have a sexual offence record. However, fingerprinting is necessary to eliminate the possibility that an offender has changed their name in order to pass a criminal record check. Therefore, if you happen to have the same combination of gender and date-of-birth as a known sex offender, you will receive a letter from the CRRP informing you that your fingerprints are required. The letter will include forms and instructions on what to do. You will be required to visit your local police agency for fingerprinting. Your fingerprints will then be submitted to the RCMP's Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services to confirm whether or not they match those of a person with a record suspension for a sexual offence. The fee for this process will be your responsibility.

Please contact your child's school to receive details about the online application process or to receive a hard copy of the eCRC.

Additional information about the CRRP is available on their website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/criminal-record-check> or by contacting a client services representative at 1-855-587-0185.



Appendix C Volunteer Driver Application

School _____ Date of Birth _____
 Driver's Name _____ Driver's License _____
 Address _____ Postal Code _____
 Telephone _____ Child's Name _____
(if applicable)

Vehicles to be used:	Vehicle 1	Vehicle 2
Year/Make/Style	_____	_____
Colour	_____	_____
License Plate	_____	_____
Number of students who can be transported safely	_____	_____
<i>(safe placement of a low back booster seat requires a lap and shoulder belt and headrest)</i>		
Owner's Name	_____	_____
Driver's Abstract provided <i>(*see #4 below) 1-800-663-3051</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Regulations

In volunteering to transport students, I confirm my awareness of the following school district regulations:

1. Vehicles used for student transportation must be rated appropriately and insured with Province of British Columbia - minimum Third Party Liability insurance. The vehicle must be properly equipped with seat belts for each occupant; seat belts must be secured when travelling. All children must use an age and weight appropriate child seat until their 9th birthday unless they have reached 4'9" (145 cm) tall. **You must ensure the seats have not expired.** More information is available [here](#). Children who are 20 lbs (9 kg) to 40 lbs (18 kg) should be restrained in a forward-facing child seat and children who are over 40 lbs (18 kg) should be restrained in a booster seat. Children under 5'5" or less than 12 years old must not be transported in the front seat if the vehicle is equipped with a passenger's side airbag.
2. The school district does not accept responsibility for any damage to the vehicle in the event of an accident, nor for deductible, loss of insurance discount, or loss of use.
3. The volunteer driver and owner should ensure that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the motor vehicle used for student transportation is in good mechanical condition.
4. *Vehicles used will only be driven by the volunteer driver noted above who must be at least 21 years of age and in good health. The driver should not have been responsible for a "preventable" accident for at least the previous three years. Upon request the driver must provide a copy of his/her current driver's license and abstract to the school principal/vice principal.
5. The vehicle must be equipped with winter or all-season tires (and chains, where applicable, for winter conditions).
6. For safety and health reasons, smoking will not be permitted in vehicles while transporting students.
7. The driver must not, at any time during his/her performance as a volunteer driver, imbibe any alcoholic beverages or use any restricted substances.
8. The driver must not operate the vehicle in an unsafe manner or in contravention of any statute or regulation governing the operation of motor vehicles.

- Notes:**
- a. The district does not permit the use of personal vehicles to carry more than seven students at one time, including driver.
 - b. The school district provides Excess Third Party Liability coverage for volunteer drivers and owners while lawfully operating vehicles on behalf of the school district.

Volunteer Driver's and Vehicle Owner's Declarations: (I/We) have read the above items 1 through 8, including notes, regarding transportation of students for sanctioned school activities and accept and agree to follow these school district regulations and to update as changed circumstances require.

Driver's Signature

Date

Vehicle Owner's Signature

School District Employee's Signature

The personal information on this form is collected by School District 68 under the authority of the School Act, Section 85. The information will be used for the purpose of maintaining a record of volunteer drivers. Personal information on this form will be protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Questions about the collection and use of this information should be directed to the Information and Privacy Coordinator, School District 68, 395 Wakesiah Avenue, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 3K6, Telephone 250 754-5521.