

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

GKG
(LEGAL)

The District shall develop a volunteer program. In developing the program, the District shall consider volunteers a resource that requires advance planning and preparation for effective use. If practicable, the District shall include volunteers in addition to paid staff in planning the implementation of the program. *Gov't Code 2109.003*

PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS AND
GUIDELINES

A volunteer program shall include:

1. An effective training program for paid staff and prospective volunteers.
2. The use of paid staff to plan and implement the volunteer program.
3. An evaluation mechanism to assess the performance of volunteers, the cooperation of paid staff with the volunteers, and the overall volunteer program.
4. Follow-up studies to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

Gov't Code 2109.004(a)

A volunteer program may:

1. Establish a program to reimburse volunteers for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of volunteer services.
2. Establish an insurance program to protect volunteers in the performance of volunteer services.
3. Cooperate with private organizations that provide services similar to those provided by the District.
4. Purchase engraved certificates, plaques, pins, and/or other awards of a similar nature that do not exceed \$75 per person in value to recognize special achievement and outstanding service of volunteers.

Gov't Code 2109.004(b)

CRIMINAL HISTORY
RECORD

APPLICABILITY

This section applies to a volunteer or person who has indicated, in writing, an intention to serve as a volunteer with the District or shared services arrangement. [See DBAA for definitions and provisions regarding confidentiality, consumer credit reports, records retention, and criminal history record checks of employees]

EXCEPTION

This section does not apply to a person who volunteers or is applying to volunteer with the District or shared services arrangement if the person:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

GKG
(LEGAL)

1. Is the parent, guardian, or grandparent of a child who is enrolled in the District or school for which the person volunteers or is applying to volunteer;
2. Will be accompanied by a District employee while on a school campus; or
3. Is volunteering for a single event on the school campus.

The District may obtain all criminal history record information that relates to an individual listed in this subsection, however.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

A volunteer may not perform any volunteer duties until:

1. The volunteer has provided to the District a driver's license or another form of identification containing the person's photograph issued by an entity of the United States government; and
2. The District has obtained from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and may obtain from any other law enforcement agency, criminal justice agency, or private consumer reporting agency all criminal history record information that relates to a volunteer.

COSTS

The District may require a volunteer or volunteer applicant to pay any costs related to obtaining criminal history record information under this section.

Education Code 22.0835

[See DBAA(LEGAL) for confidentiality of criminal history record information obtained from DPS.]

VOLUNTEER
IMMUNITY

GENERALLY

A volunteer who is serving as a direct service volunteer in the District is immune from civil liability to the same extent as a District employee under Education Code 22.0511. However, this section of law does not limit the liability of a person for intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

A "volunteer" is a person rendering services for or on behalf of the District on District premises or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property who does not receive compensation in excess of reimbursement for expenses.

Education Code 22.053

EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

A person who volunteers to assist with an extracurricular activity is not liable for civil damages arising out of an act or omission relating to the requirements under Education Code 33.205 regarding safety precautions [see FAA(H)] unless the act or omission is willfully or wantonly negligent. *Education Code 33.211*

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

GKG
(LEGAL)

IMMUNITY FOR
SHELTER
WORKERS

A District volunteer is not civilly liable for an act performed in the discharge of duty if the person is performing an activity related to sheltering or housing individuals in connection with the evacuation of an area stricken or threatened by disaster. *Gov't Code 418.006, 431.085*