

Volunteer Policy

The Tiverton School Department appreciates volunteer efforts in its schools. Parents, grandparents, college students, senior citizens, business representatives and community members are important sources of support and expertise that enrich the instructional program, assist teachers, and connect the student body with the community.

A volunteer is any non-compensated person who wishes to donate his/her time within a school building or at a school sponsored event where children are present.

Pursuant to RIGL- 16-2-18.4, all current or prospective volunteers in the Tiverton Schools who are RI residents are required to receive a RI BCI criminal background check once every four years if that volunteer's service is reasonably anticipated to involve direct, unmonitored contact with students on school premises or school sponsored events. Perspective volunteers who are Massachusetts residents are required to receive a Massachusetts CORI Check every four years. Said background check will be conducted prior to or within one week of the commencement of said volunteer service. The cost of the background check is the responsibility of the applicant. Volunteers may be required to participate in an orientation and/or training established by the Tiverton School Department.

Volunteers will not have access to confidential information/files/records. Additionally volunteers shall not be permitted to discuss student performance and/or behavior either in or outside of school. Volunteers must adhere to Tiverton School Department policies and regulations.

If the current or prospective volunteer has already undergone a state criminal records check within twelve (12) months prior to commencement of volunteering for the school department, the school department will request a copy of the background check. The letter will be maintained on file to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

This policy does not apply to parents observing classrooms, guest speakers, performers, student mentors who are enrolled in the Tiverton School Department, Truancy Court personnel, newspaper reporters, vendors for school related items such as rings, yearbooks, delivery vendors, and alike, provided they are accompanied by school personnel. Anyone needing clarification of this policy should contact the superintendent of schools.

The building principals will be responsible for ensuring all volunteers as defined herein are in compliance with this policy. The superintendent of schools will make the final determination regarding an individual's compliance with this policy.

A volunteer shall at all times indemnify and hold harmless the Tiverton School Department and its officers, agents and employees on account of and from any and all claims, damages, losses, judgments, workers' compensation payments, litigation expenses, and legal counsel fees arising out of injuries to persons (including death) or damage to property alleged to have been sustained by (a) officers, agents and employees of the Tiverton School Department or (b) other person(s) which injuries are alleged to have occurred on or near the work to have been caused in whole or in part by the acts, omissions or neglect of the volunteer.

This policy is effective as of January 2, 2014.

Approved: 11-12-13