POLICY: VOLUNTEERS AND WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Policy

Maple Run Unified School District recognizes the valuable contributions made to the schools by volunteers and work study students. It further recognizes that appropriate supervision of volunteers and work study students will enhance their contributions as well as fulfill the responsibility that the school district has for the education and safety of its students.

Definitions

Volunteer: A volunteer is an individual not employed by the school district who works on an occasional or regular basis in the school setting to assist the staff. A volunteer works without compensation or economic benefits.

Work Study Student/Intern: A work study student receives compensation for work performed at a school operated by the district as part of a work experience program sponsored or provided by the college or university at which he or she is enrolled. A student working toward a teaching credential who is placed as a student teacher at a district school is not a work study student. For purposes of this policy, an intern, working without pay, will be considered as a work study student.

Student Teacher: A student working toward a teaching credential may be placed at a school as a student teacher. A document must be obtained from the college stating that a criminal record check has been completed.

A volunteer, work study student/intern, or student teacher may be removed at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop administrative rules and procedures to ensure that volunteers and work study students/interns are appropriately screened prior to entering into service in the school district, and that volunteers and work study students/interns do not have extended, unsupervised contact with students. The screening process utilized by the school district shall minimally include a name and birth date check with the Vermont Internet Sex Abuse Registry for any person being considered for service as a work study student. A person who is legally designated as a sex offender shall not be eligible to be a volunteer, work study student, or student teacher.
1 A school board policy on the “supervision of volunteers and work study students” is required by 16 V.S.A. §260.

2 Section 7b of S.13, enacted in 2009 and effective on its date of passage, requires “…superintendents…and their contractors (to) check the names and date of birth of any work study students with the Vermont Internet sex offender registry prior to allowing work study students unsupervised contact with schoolchildren.” The law further provides that “(A) person who is on the Vermont Internet sex offender registry shall not be eligible to be a work study student.” See 16 V.S.A. §260 as amended by S.13 Section 7b. At the option of the school board, this prohibition could be extended to include volunteers as well as work study students.