

LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS

Duty of a Volunteer

When a student attends school, the parent delegates his or her duty of care to the principal and the classroom teacher. This duty is then transferred to you when you spend time with the student as a volunteer. When participating in any activity, it is best to make decisions as you feel a responsible parent would want. For example, you should not exceed the scope of responsibility that has been delegated to you by the school official and always act in a manner where student health and safety is paramount.

Exercise Good Common Sense

If you exercise good common sense you will generally be acting within an acceptable level of duty of care and, therefore, covered under the Board of Educations' liability insurance. If you witness inappropriate behavior such as sexual harassment or intimidation among students, or become aware of a potential abuse or neglect situation of a student, you should report this information to the building administrator.

Liability Coverage

The Board of Education has liability insurance if a situation would arise that resulted in an injury. This insurance would apply unless gross negligence was found to be the causal link to the injury.

You are held to a reasonable duty of care with the students you work with. This duty is breached if an injury occurs and the cause is attributed to a negligent act or decision on your part.

Confidential Student Educational and Medication Information

As a volunteer, you will sometimes become aware of confidential student educational and medical information. The information includes, but is not limited to, grades, disciplinary action, medical accommodation, and the student's home address: There are state and federal laws, which prohibit disclosure of this information without parental consent.

Your Personal Medical Information

If you have a medical condition or allergy that may trigger a need for emergency medical attention, it is a good idea, although not required, to share that information with the building principal. This information would be maintained by the principal in a confidential file and would prove helpful if the principal had to make a decision in a medical emergency.