

Community Volunteers

The school volunteer program has a primary goal helping schools provide the best possible education for the community's children. The following are several objectives:

1. To provide direct assistance to students in curriculum areas such as reading, math, art and other areas of special need;
2. To relieve teachers and staff of clerical or routine work;
3. To effectively enlarge staff so as to permit instructional strategies essential to individualization;
4. To enrich and augment the school program by bringing in special skills, talents and experiences from community members;
5. To assist teachers in increasing students' motivation for learning;
6. To provide greater opportunity for the positive personal relationships between students and adults and between older and younger students which can contribute to improved student self-image;
7. To increase community knowledge and understanding of the school programs and improve school-community communications.

Characteristics of a good school volunteer program:

1. Has the support of administrators and teachers;
2. Has a designated coordinator and established organizational format;
3. Has well-defined policy, purpose and goals;
4. Meets the school's needs, both for educational and for support services;
5. Involves the general community as well as parents;
6. Provides an appropriate role and task for every volunteer taking into account his/her experience and interests;
7. Positively affects school-community relations;

8. Regularly and effectively:

- a. Recruits;
- b. Screens;
- c. Orients;
- d. Trains;
- e. Assigns;
- f. Supervises;
- g. Records;
- h. Rewards;
- i. Evaluates.