



COOS BAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Blossom Gulch Elementary School ★ Madison Elementary School
Millicoma School ★ Sunset School ★ Marshfield High School ★ Harding Learning Center

Learning FOR ALL – WHATEVER IT TAKES!

Volunteer Policy Guidance for Parents Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why must I have a criminal background check to participate in volunteer activities at my child's school?

The safety of all students in Coos Bay Public Schools is our first priority. While we encourage, appreciate and celebrate parental involvement in your child's school, it's important that we avoid any situation in which a volunteer might compromise student safety.

2. Last year I chaperoned two field trips without a background check. Why has the policy changed?

The policy has not changed; background checks have always been a requirement for field trips to ensure student safety.

3. Does this mean I can't be involved with the school without a background check?

Not at all. We value your participation in your child's school. Take advantage of open houses, curriculum nights, book fairs, athletic associations, booster clubs, school performances and parent-teacher conferences. Talk with your child's teachers, especially if you have questions or concerns about his/her performance of class rules and expectations. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to be involved with your school's parent-teacher association.

4. How long does the background check process take?

The normal processing time is 1-2 business days. The process may take longer in high volume months such as September and October. The background check is a national check and some states may take longer to process requests.

5. How often are volunteers re-checked?

Background checks expire September 1st each year.

6. What is the difference between volunteering and parent involvement?

Volunteering takes involvement to another level in activities with potential contact with students. Individuals are defined as volunteers if participating in activities in which all students are not under the supervision of their parents/guardians. For instance, if a book fair takes place during the school day and the teacher brings the class to the fair, volunteers would have to possess an approved background check. A book fair in the evening in which students are accompanied by parents would not require volunteers with approved background checks.

7. I don't want to be a chaperone on a field trip – I simply want to go along to accompany my child. Can I do this without submitting a volunteer application form?

We understand your interest in accompanying your own child. However, any adult on a field trip is going to be potentially involved with other children. Teachers cannot monitor which parents on the trip are cleared and which are not. For the safety of your child and all children, it's important that any adult on a field trip be cleared as an approved volunteer.

8. What type of criminal background information would prevent a volunteer from volunteering in our schools?

Human Resources reviews all information returned from background checks and determines whether or not a volunteer should be volunteering in our schools. A felony within 10 years or a misdemeanor involving drugs and/or paraphernalia may disqualify an individual from volunteering in our schools. Certain crimes will be reviewed on a case by case basis (domestic violence, multiple arrests, etc.) For a list of crimes that will prevent someone from volunteering regardless of conviction date, please read ORS 342.143, which can be found at <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/342.143>

9. Who should I contact if I have questions about the process?

You may contact Amy Scoville in Human Resources at amys@coos-bay.k12.or.us