



SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between a school volunteer and a school visitor?

A school volunteer is required to undergo a screening process through the Human Resources Division and receive approval before undertaking volunteer activities. A school visitor is not required to receive approval from Human Resources and is able to participate in activities and/or events as deemed appropriate by the principal (examples include lunch with your child, student performances, assemblies, special class activities with the teacher present, and certain types of field trips that do not allow for unsupervised interactions with students).

Why do I have to apply and receive approval to become a school volunteer?

School volunteers are frequently utilized to work directly with students and may, at times, be in settings that are not directly supervised by staff. Therefore, in the interest of student safety, it is essential to employ a screening process (that includes a criminal background check) before volunteer approval is granted.

What is the process for applying to be a school volunteer?

Application directions are posted on the district website (www.chatham.k12.nc.us- click on the "Community" tab- select "Volunteer" from the dropdown menu). Applicants may also access the information via the following hyperlink: [Volunteer Process](#).

How should I proceed if I am not an approved volunteer and need clarification about my eligibility to participate as a school visitor in a specific activity or event?

Contact the school for clarification as needed.

Are school visitors required to follow certain procedures and/or rules?

Yes, in order to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for students and minimize disruptions to instructional time, all visitors are required to report immediately to the school's administrative office and request and receive permission to be in the school. Additionally, school visitors are expected to comply with all school rules and board policies that include but are not limited to policy [5025](#), Prohibition of Alcoholic Beverages; policy [5026/7250](#), Smoking and Tobacco Products; and policy [5027/7275](#), Weapons and Explosives Prohibited. School visitors are also subject to policy [5022](#), Registered Sex Offenders, must comply with the provisions accordingly.

Are school volunteers also required to follow certain procedures and/or rules?

Yes, school volunteers must adhere to the directives of school staff and comply with the same school rules and board policies specified above.

What are the board policies and regulations related to school volunteers and visitors?

[Policy 5015: School Volunteers](#)
[Regulation 5015-R \(School Volunteers\)](#)

[Policy 5020: School Visitors](#)

(Policies and regulation may be accessed at https://boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=chatham_nc#&&hs=136018)