

Lowndes County Schools Volunteer Procedures:

Definition of a Volunteer:

Volunteer - Anyone providing supervision while actively interacting with students, or anyone having responsibility of students of Lowndes County Schools (LCS). The period of supervision also includes activities outside the normal school day such as field trips, athletic events. etc.

Requirements of volunteers before they are allowed to interact with students:

- A. Watch the DOE Mandated Reporter Power Point (PPT).
https://drive.google.com/a/lowndes.k12.ga.us/file/d/0B6X08EWGs5I_YWR4WHRNZWFWZjA/view
- B. Consent to local background check. Principal will be notified if an issue is identified on the background check.
- C. Sign the volunteer statement indicating the PPT has been viewed and that the school protocol and mandated reporting law is understood.

Identification of volunteers after completing the requirements:

- A. Volunteers will show a photo id before performing volunteer activities.
- B. Schools will designate a certified staff member to maintain the signed statements.

NOTE: This Volunteer's Statement, Background Check, and Personal Affirmation must be completed, signed, dated, received by the school principal and approved by the system before the volunteer activity begins. This packet will be valid for the current school year. A new packet will be required for each subsequent school year. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter of mutual concern.

Statement Requiring Volunteer Signature:

**Lowndes County Schools Volunteer Statement
2016-2017**

After receiving training, I confirm the following:

1. I have watched a Mandated Reporter training PPT provided by LCS.
2. I understand that it is law that I must report **immediately** any suspected abuse. Reports are made to a school administrator or counselor as this is LCS policy. I understand it is a crime if I do not report suspected abuse.
3. I understand when I make a report or cause a report to be made, mandated reporters only need to have “reasonable suspicions” not direct evidence.
4. I understand it is against the law for any mandated reporter to notify the parent that a referral has been made. It is the policy of the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) that Child Protective Services notify the parent upon investigation.
5. I understand that my responsibility is to report any suspected abuse and not investigate the matter. Investigations will be conducted by school officials, DFACS, Child Protective Services, and law enforcement. I will not conduct an investigation, and will not interrogate a child for any reason.
6. **I will keep all matters confidential.** This is a legal mandate as well as something I would demand if the situation involved my family. These children deserve the same privacy.

Volunteer Signature: _____

School Designee Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return form with a copy of your driver's license.

Volunteer's Personal Affirmation

Volunteer's Name: _____
Please Print Last Name, First Name and Middle Initial

Address: _____

Contact Numbers: _____
Home/Cellular *Work*

Instructions: The Volunteer must enter a "Yes" or "No" response to each of the following questions. All questions must have a response (please circle your responses) in order for the volunteer process to continue. Please attach an explanation for any "YES" response.

1. **Yes No** Are you the subject of a pending investigation involving a criminal act?
2. **Yes No** Are you currently the subject of an investigation involving sexual misconduct or physical/psychological harm to a child?
3. **Yes No** For any **misdemeanor and/or felony criminal offense**, have you ever:
Please circle the applicable response(s).
 - ◆ Pled guilty;
 - ◆ Entered a plea of *nolo contendere*;
 - ◆ Entered an Alford plea;
 - ◆ Been found guilty;
 - ◆ Pled guilty to a lesser offense;
 - ◆ Been granted first offender treatment without adjudication of guilt;
 - ◆ Participated in a pre-trial diversion program;
 - ◆ Been found not guilty by reason of insanity; or
 - ◆ Been placed under a court order whereby an adjudication or sentence was withheld?
4. **Yes No** Have you ever been convicted or pled to a lesser offense for any sexual offense?
5. **Yes No** Have you been convicted of a drug offense (felony or misdemeanor)?
6. **Yes No** Have you been convicted of a crime of violence (felony or misdemeanor)?

AFFIRMATION

I affirm that my responses are true and correct. I hereby give permission to Lowndes County Schools to obtain copies of any criminal records relating to me which are held by any local, state or federal government agency. I authorize any such agency or entity to release those records to Lowndes County Schools.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return form with a copy of your driver's license.