

Sierra College

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

AP 7500

Volunteers

Date Adopted:	11/14/1990
Date Revised:	3/8/2019
Date Reviewed:	12/12/2025
References:	Education Code 72401, 87010, 87011 and 88249; Government Code Section 3119.5

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the District policy on volunteers. Each volunteer is subject to the screening process set forth in this policy and procedure, with the following exceptions:

- Volunteers serving in single day College events.
- Individuals serving as volunteers in Associated Students of Sierra College (ASSC) officer positions at the Colleges. ASSC officers are not entitled to defense and indemnity by the District.

The Chief Human Resources Officer may authorize suspension of the screening process when they believe that this process is not necessary for the volunteers serving in the particular event.

General

Volunteers serve the District in an “at will” capacity. The District may terminate a volunteer’s services for any reason or no reason at all.

The District may enter into agreements with outside organizations to provide volunteers to the District to work at college locations. Such agreements will contain appropriate defense and indemnification language to protect the District from liability in connection with the volunteer service.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 3119.5, no person aged 60 years or older may be excluded from volunteer service if the person is physically, mentally and professionally capable of performing the services involved. A person shall be deemed “professionally capable” if they can demonstrate reasonable proficiency or relevant certification and performs their professional duties in accordance with laws, regulations, or the technical standards that govern their area of volunteer responsibility.

Volunteers may not be used in lieu of classified employees. The District may not refuse to employ a person in a vacant classified position and use volunteers instead, nor may it abolish any classified positions and use volunteers instead.

Screening

The District shall use a written application form that requires, at a minimum, the volunteer's name, address, phone number and history of convictions.

A volunteer's service record shall be maintained by the District.

Subject to the limitations of this policy and procedure, employees assigned to other positions within the District may serve as volunteers during off-hours.

Fingerprints of each volunteer may be required. Volunteers with ongoing assignments and volunteers who interact with minors shall be required to provide a complete set of fingerprints for the purpose of running a criminal background check.

No person may serve as a volunteer in the District if:

- They have been convicted of or if they have charges pending which pertains to any sex offense (as defined in Education Code Section 87010), or controlled substance offense (as defined in Education Code Section 87011).
- They have been convicted of a crime and the Chief Human Resources Officer determines that the nature of the crime is too serious to serve as a volunteer; the crime was too recent; and/or the crime is inconsistent with obligations in performing assigned duties as a volunteer.
- They have a health condition that would preclude them from satisfactorily performing essential duties of the position.
- They make a false statement or omits a statement as to any material fact on the application form.

Incidental Expenses

Persons serving without pay as volunteers may receive reimbursement for verified incidental expenses.

Benefits

Volunteers are employees of the District only for the purpose of Workers' Compensation benefits for injuries sustained while engaged in the performance of any service under the direction and control of the District. With the exception of workers' compensation (Education Code Section 72401), volunteers shall serve without any type of compensation or any other benefits granted to District employees. Volunteers shall not be entitled to defense and indemnity from the District.