

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

As defined by Florida Statute 1012.01(5), a K-12 school volunteer is any nonpaid person who may be appointed by a district school board or its designee. School volunteers may include, but may not be limited to, parents, senior citizens, students, and others who assist the teacher or other members of the school staff.

Training: All volunteers for this agency have received training from this agency to become literacy mentors, to support Pre-K - 3rd grade children enrolled in Title I schools, at a predetermined time selected between the mentor and the family.

All volunteers for this agency agree to:

- Generate enthusiasm for books and reading
- Improve children's listening comprehension, vocabulary, ability to articulate thoughts and background knowledge - all fundamental literacy skills.
- Increase children's self-esteem through consistent weekly attention from their mentors.
- Expose children to a people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Help close the vocabulary gap by reading aloud to children.

All volunteers for this agency have received the School District of Manatee County's Community Toolkit which contains read aloud activities and educational games to be used with students based on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency and/or comprehension.

All volunteers for this agency will follow all school policies and administrative procedures regarding responsible use of technology.

FERPA and Confidentiality: All volunteers for this agency agree to uphold the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99), a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. All volunteers for this agency will not ask students about their grades. If students offer information, volunteers will change the subject. Volunteers will not call into the school for information on their student, including but not limited to the student's address or attendance. Volunteers will not take photos of their students.

All volunteers for this agency agree to uphold the Florida Statute 39.202. Anyone who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by persons responsible for the child's welfare shall report immediately such knowledge or suspicion to the central abuse hotline (1-800-96ABUSE or 1-800-962-2873) at the Department of Children and Families.

Compliance with Jessica Lunsford Act: The School District of Manatee County and State of Florida, requires all volunteers to comply with the Jessica Lunsford Act (JLA), which consists of a level II background screening via fingerprinting. Providers, individuals or entities under contract

with the School Board of Manatee County required to go on school grounds when students are present, must comply with the requirements of the law and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the School Board of Manatee County for any claims made against the School Board related to the failure to comply with Florida Statute Section 1012.465 and Section 1012.32 Florida Statutes. For information on JLA, requirements visit <http://www.manateeschools.net/>

Virtual volunteers: All volunteers for this agency have read the Manatee County Schools Volunteer Information Guide and have cleared the Raptor Technologies mandatory Level 1 screening via the Dru Sjodin National Sexual Offender Public Website.

A link to the Raptor Database volunteer application will be sent to the community agencies to share with the volunteers. Volunteers are required to complete online volunteer applications. The agencies pay \$5 for every volunteer application that goes through. We will need 2-3 days to process applications, prior to volunteers working virtually with our students.

All participating agencies agree to perform background screening of volunteers and maintain search results. Those individuals that are disqualified by Statute to become educators will be prohibited from volunteering.

COVID-19: Covid-19 Restrictions are presently in place in the School District and volunteers are bound by those restrictions.

Volunteers Status: Volunteers are volunteering with an outside agency for the virtual literacy program and not with the school district. Please do not contact schools directly.

INDEMNIFICATION: Contractor/Volunteer agrees to defend indemnify and hold harmless the School Board, their agents, employees, officers and Board Members against any and all third-party claims, losses, damages, expenses, or liabilities arising from any action or failure to act with respect to this agreement to the extent provided by law. When pertaining to a services contract Contractor will obtain at its own cost and expense general liability insurance with minimum coverage amounts of at least one million dollars per occurrence and three million dollars in the aggregate coverage and such insurance will name The School Board, their Board Members and School District Employees as an additional insured. To the extent, applicable Contractor will maintain and furnish workers compensation insurance. A certificate of insurance will be furnished within ten business days from the execution of this agreement. Failure to provide such insurance allows the School Board, the election to immediately terminate this agreement.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY: The parties acknowledge and agree that the School Board of Manatee County, Florida, as a political subdivision of the State of Florida, is a sovereign entity that is by law immune from suit except to the extent specified in 768.28 of Florida Statutes. No provision of the agreement shall constitute, or be interpreted as, a waiver of sovereign immunity, and all defenses relative to sovereign immunity shall be preserved.

This volunteer program is not affiliated with the School District of Manatee County and all volunteers are recruited and trained by this agency.