

HARDEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Letter to Volunteers

To All Volunteers:

From: The Superintendent of Schools

Re: Compliance of the Jessica Lunsford Act

We are extremely grateful for your interest and desire to serve as a volunteer for the Hardee County School District. Your contributions are invaluable to our success as a school district. The Hardee County School District maintains a high level of safety and security for all students and staff members. A safe learning environment must be upheld and can only be ensured by the attentiveness of all concerned. Therefore, we have established a process for volunteers to comply with the Jessica Lunsford Act, State Statutes, and district requirements.

The Hardee County School District's volunteer program is based on the direct-line-of-sight concept. Ideally, the volunteer is supervised by remaining in full view of the staff member for whom the assistance is being rendered. Applicants cannot volunteer until their application has been processed. We suggest that volunteers sign up several weeks in advance of the date to allow ample time for the Human Resource Office to process the volunteer's application and perform a search on the National Sexual Offender Public Website and/or the FDLE Sexual Offender/Predator database. Any history results derived from the search indicating a crime had been committed against a child will initiate an automatic disqualification. This means that the individual will not be allowed to assist in any school function where students are present. Please refer to the Checklist for Volunteers for complete instructions for obtaining compliance with the Hardee County School District. Volunteering in Hardee County Schools: Classroom Volunteer may assist a teacher to improve a student's academic status, provides enrichment to the curriculum, organize and participate in class projects and activities, helps with keeping records, prepares instructional materials, interacts with students by reading or reviewing assignments, plans and conducts celebrations and special events or holidays, operate AV equipment, etc. Community Volunteer willing to speak in various classes as requested by a teacher or principal to enhance the curriculum by providing additional information on a given area that the volunteer is familiar with and has had personal experiences or interests in. Topics could include hobbies, talents, jobs, place of travel, etc. Mentoring Volunteer assists students in their academic decisions at the junior high and high school level. There are a number of mentoring programs that are currently active in the school district. They do require initial training before mentoring can occur. Big Brothers Big Sisters, Take Stock, etc. School Projects Volunteer assists with field trips, book fairs, field days, school carnivals and other special occasion events. Again, thank you for services and cooperation in complying with the law.