



Classroom and School Volunteer, Visitation, and Removal Policy

The Connecting Waters Charter Schools (“CWCS”) Board of Directors (“Board”) encourages parents/guardians and other members of the community to share their time, knowledge and abilities with students. Volunteer assistance in schools enriches the educational program, enhances supervision of students, and contributes to school safety while strengthening CWCS’s relationships with the community. The Board also encourages community members to serve as mentors providing support and motivation to students.

Nevertheless, to ensure the safety of students and staff as well as to minimize interruption of the instructional program, the CWCS Board of Directors has established the following procedures, to facilitate volunteering and visitations during regular school days:

Definitions

- A “*visitor*” is defined as any person seeking to enter the school building who is not an employee or a current student at the Charter School. All visitors who are not parents or guardians of a student must have a specific and educationally relevant purpose for their visit.
- A “*volunteer*” is defined as any person who voluntarily offers and provides a service to the Charter School with Charter School approval without receiving compensation.

Volunteering

Parents or guardians who are interested in volunteering in the classroom must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Volunteers who will volunteer outside of the direct supervision of a credentialed employee shall be (1) fingerprinted and (2) receive background clearance prior to volunteering without the direct supervision of a credentialed employee. Please see additional guidance on this below.
2. A volunteer shall also have on file with CWCS a certificate showing that, upon initial volunteer assignment, the person submitted to a tuberculosis risk assessment and, if tuberculosis risk factors were identified, was examined and found to be free of

infectious tuberculosis. If no risk factors are identified, an examination is not required. At the discretion of the CWCS Board of Directors, this paragraph shall not apply to a volunteer whose functions do not require frequent or prolonged contact with students. Please see additional guidance on this below.

3. Volunteering must be arranged with the classroom teacher and Executive Director or designee, at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.
4. A volunteer may not volunteer in the classroom for more than three (3) hours per month unless there is a need for more hours and approved by the Executive Director.
5. Prior to volunteering in the classroom, the volunteer should communicate with the teacher to discuss the expectations for volunteering needs. Classroom volunteers are there to benefit the entire class and are not in class solely for the benefit of their own child. Classroom volunteers must follow the instructions provided by the classroom teacher or aide. Classroom rules also apply to volunteers to ensure minimal distraction to the teacher. If a volunteer is uncomfortable following the direction of the teacher or aide, the volunteer may leave their volunteer position for that day.
6. Information gained by volunteers regarding students (e.g. academic performance or behavior) is to be maintained in strict confidentiality. Volunteers must sign in agreement that they have read and understand and agree to follow the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) Policy.
7. Volunteers shall follow and be governed by all other guidelines indicated elsewhere in this Policy. This includes, but is not limited to, the process of registering and signing out of the campus at the main office as indicated below.
8. Volunteerism by parents is encouraged but not mandatory. Any volunteer hours are tracked for purposes of maintaining data on the parent participation at the School.

Qualifications of Volunteers

Criminal Background Check

All volunteers are required to disclose their status as a registered sex offender and/or provide CWCS with sufficient information in order to allow verification of this status on the California Department of Justice’s (“DOJ”) Megan’s Law website. A person who is required to register as a sex offender shall not serve as a volunteer in any capacity.

Criminal background checks via DOJ and Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) fingerprint clearance are required of volunteers whose responsibilities may result in unsupervised work

with students. Unsupervised refers to situations and/or volunteer roles in which the volunteer will be alone with one (1) or more students, such as individualized tutoring in a private space. The Executive Director or designee shall determine which CWCS volunteer positions are subject to this requirement.

Supervised volunteers may be required to undergo a criminal background check depending on the frequency and nature of the volunteer work performed, and whether or not the volunteer is a parent/guardian of a student at CWCS. The chart below indicates the type of background check required for different categories of volunteers:

Unsupervised volunteers (community and parent volunteers)	DOJ/FBI background check
Supervised, community members who <i>regularly</i> volunteer (i.e. more than once a month)	DOJ/FBI background check
Supervised, parent volunteers	Confirmation that the volunteer is not listed in Megan’s Law Database
Supervised, community volunteers who volunteer no more than ten (10) times per school year	Confirmation that the volunteer is not listed in Megan’s Law Database
Supervised volunteers who come only once or twice a year	Confirmation that the volunteer is not listed in Megan’s Law Database
Overnight field trip volunteers	DOJ/FBI background check
Daytime field trip volunteers	Confirmation that the volunteer is not listed in Megan’s Law Database
Supervised facility project volunteers	Confirmation that the volunteer is not listed in Megan’s Law Database

CWCS shall receive subsequent arrest notifications for volunteers who undergo criminal background checks and will receive such notifications so long as the volunteer continues to serve CWCS.

Tuberculosis Testing

No volunteer shall be assigned to provide supervision or instruction of students unless he/she has submitted to a tuberculosis (“TB”) risk assessment within the past sixty (60) days, and if risk factors are identified, the volunteer was found by a licensed physician and/or licensed entity to be free from active TB. Volunteers who do not present risk factors or test negative shall

thereafter be required to undergo a TB risk assessment (and undergo tuberculosis testing if risk factors are identified) every four (4) years.

The Executive Director or designee may exempt from TB risk assessment/testing requirements those volunteers who serve less than a school year and whose functions do not require frequent or prolonged contact with students.

Duties of Volunteers

Volunteers may assist certificated personnel in the performance of their duties, in the supervision of students, and in instructional tasks which, in the judgment of the certificated personnel to whom the volunteer is assigned, may be performed by a person not licensed as a classroom teacher. These duties shall not include assignment of grades to students.

Volunteers may work on short-term projects under the direction of the CWCS administration.

Volunteers shall not be used to assist certificated staff in performing teaching or administrative responsibilities in place of regularly authorized employees.

All volunteers serve at-will and CWCS may terminate a volunteer's services at any time with or without cause or advance notice, at CWCS's sole and unreviewable discretion.

Supervision of Volunteers

Volunteers shall be provided with information about CWCS goals, programs and practices and may receive an orientation and other training related to their specific responsibilities as appropriate. CWCS employees who supervise volunteers shall ensure that volunteers are assigned meaningful responsibilities that capitalize on their skills and expertise, and maximize their contribution to the educational program.

Volunteers shall act in accordance with CWCS policies, regulations and rules, including but not limited to the policies set forth in the CWCS Employee Handbook. At their discretion, employees who supervise volunteers may ask any volunteer who violates CWCS rules to leave the facility. The Executive Director or designee shall be responsible for investigating and resolving complaints regarding volunteers.

Visitation

1. Visits during school hours should first be arranged with the teacher and Executive Director or designee, at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. If a conference is desired, an appointment should be set with the teacher during non-instructional time, at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. Parents/guardians seeking to visit a classroom during school hours must first obtain the approval of the classroom

teacher and the Executive Director or designee.

2. All visitors (including volunteers) shall register in the Visitors Logbook and complete a Visitor's Permit in the main office immediately upon entering any school building or grounds when during regular school hours. When registering, the visitor is required to provide their name, address, age (if under 21), their purpose for entering school grounds, and proof of identity.
3. For purposes of school safety and security, the Executive Director or designee may design a visible means of identification for visitors while on school premises.
4. All visitors are asked to comply with current mandated and recommended health and safety protocols. Visitors (including volunteers) who demonstrate signs of a contagious disease (e.g., fever, coughing) may be denied registration. When recommended or requested by the Department of Public Health, visitors will be required to wear personal protective equipment, such as masks, and practice social distancing. CWCS reserves the right to implement additional measures for the protection of its school community, such as requiring forehead temperature checks before entry to the same extent being utilized for students and employees.
5. If the visitor is a government officer/official (including but not limited to local law enforcement officers, immigration enforcement officers, social workers, district attorneys, or U.S. attorneys) the officer/official will also be asked to produce any documentation that authorizes school access. CWCS shall make reasonable efforts to notify parents or guardians prior to permitting a student to be interviewed or searched, consistent with the law and/or any court order, warrant or instructions from the officer/official. A copy of the documentation provided by the officer and notes from the encounter may be maintained by CWCS, consistent with the law. The CWCS Board of Directors and Bureau of Children's Justice in the California Department of Justice, at BCJ@doj.ca.gov, will be timely informed regarding any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school site or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes, as recommended by the Attorney General.
6. Except for unusual circumstances, approved by the Executive Director, CWCS visits should not exceed approximately sixty (60) minutes in length and may not occur more than twice per semester.
7. While on campus, visitors are to enter and leave classrooms as quietly as possible, not converse with any student, teacher, or other instructional assistant unless permitted, and not interfere with any school activity. No electronic listening or recording device may be used in a classroom without the teacher's and Executive Director's written permission.

8. Before leaving campus, the visitor shall return the Visitor's Permit and sign out of the Visitors Logbook in the main office.

Limitations of Volunteering or Visitation

1. The Executive Director or designee may seek the assistance of the police in managing or reporting any visitor or volunteer in violation of this Policy.
2. The Executive Director, or designee, may refuse to register a visitor or volunteer if it is believed that the presence of the visitor or volunteer would cause a threat of disruption or physical injury to teachers, other employees, or students.
3. The Executive Director may direct a visitor without lawful business on campus to leave campus when the visitor's presence or acts interfere with the peaceful conduct of the activities of the school, or disrupt the school or its students, or school activities. Any visitor who is directed to leave by the Executive Director or designee will not be permitted to return to the Charter School campus for at least seven (7) calendar days.
4. The Executive Director or designee may withdraw consent to be on campus for up to fourteen (14) calendar days even if the visitor has a right to be on campus whenever there is reason to believe that the person has willfully disrupted or is likely to disrupt CWCS's orderly operation. Consent shall be reinstated whenever the Executive Director has reason to believe that the presence of the person will not constitute a substantial and material threat to the orderly operation of the school campus. The person from whom consent has been withdrawn may submit a written request for a hearing on the withdrawal within the two-week period. The written request shall state the address to which notice of hearing is to be sent. The Executive Director shall grant such a hearing not later than seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the request and shall immediately mail a written notice of the time, place, and date of such hearing to such person.
5. The Executive Director or designee may request that a visitor who has failed to register, or whose registration privileges have been denied or withdrawn, promptly leave school grounds. When a visitor is directed to leave, the Executive Director or designee shall inform the visitor that if the visitor reenters the school without following the posted requirements the visitor will be guilty of a misdemeanor.
6. This Policy does not authorize CWCS to permit a parent/guardian to volunteer or visit the campus if doing so conflicts with a valid restraining

order, protective order, or order for custody or visitation issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Posted Notifications

At each entrance to the campus, signs shall be posted specifying the hours during which registration is required, stating where the office of the Executive Director or designee is located, and what route to take to that office, and setting forth the penalties for violation of this Policy.

Penalties

1. Pursuant to the California Penal Code, if a visitor does not leave after being asked or if the visitor returns without following the posted requirements after being directed to leave, the visitor will be guilty of a misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) or imprisonment in the County jail for a period of up to six (6) months or both.
2. Under California Education Code section 44811, any visitor whose conduct materially disrupts classwork or extracurricular activities or involves substantial disorder is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable, upon the first conviction, by a fine of no less than \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) and no more than \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) or by imprisonment in a County jail for no more than one (1) year, or both, the fine and imprisonment.
3. Disruptive conduct may lead to CWCS's pursuit of a restraining order against a visitor, which would prohibit the visitor from coming onto school grounds or attending school activities for any purpose for a period of up to three (3) years.