

HCC PTA Executive Board Position on Parental Engagement and Community Use of Buildings

The current HCPS COVID-19 Health Plan states the following about visitors (emphasis added).

Restrictions of volunteers and visitors in the building:

- **There will be no volunteers permitted in buildings.**
- Visitors will be limited to only parents and guardians.
- In-person meetings with school staff and parents or guardians will be by appointment only.
- Parents and guardians coming to pick up a student for early dismissal will be asked to wait outside the building, and student(s) and necessary paperwork will be brought to them.
- Parents and guardians needing to drop off any items that do not require face-to-face discussion with school personnel will be asked to leave items outside the building to be collected by a staff member.

Henrico County Council of PTAs supports continued and active volunteer engagement during ALL phases of the school reopening plans. Volunteers should be trained and utilized in a manner that supports students and teachers during in-person instruction. As schools reopen to in-person learning, HCC PTA supports limited access to school buildings for community partners that contribute to student success and community engagement.

HCC PTA seeks a revision or clarification of the HCPS COVID-19 Health Plan to allow for

- use of trained volunteers outside of the school building during the school day;
- limited use of trained volunteers in buildings during the school day;
- community use of school property after school hours—including access to restrooms; and,
- limited community use of school buildings after school hours.

Examples of volunteer uses during in-person instruction/limited community use of buildings

- assistance at drop-off and pick-up times in the bus and car loops
- recess monitors to allow for teacher breaks
- outside lunch monitors to allow for teacher breaks
- limited numbers of classroom lunch monitors in buildings
- substitute/additional classroom monitors as needed
- photocopy assistance
- assistance for sporting events or with school-sponsored extracurricular activities
- third-party sponsors of indoor and/or outdoor after-school enrichment programs that follow the Health Plan and coordinates groups to restrict group sizes and interactions

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Related Virginia PTA Positions

Reopening Statement

Virginia PTAs prioritizes the health and welfare of students, staff and families and supports reopening plans that provide high quality education, are community centered, practical, feasible and meet the risk tolerance level of individual communities.

Family Engagement & Volunteering

Research shows that students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades, pass their classes, attend school regularly, have better social skills, and go on to post-secondary education. Volunteers are essential to the success of our community schools and students. Volunteers are intimately familiar with school operation procedures and will be able to help establish a culture of safety during a time when extra support may be needed to meet CDC guidance.

- Virginia PTA supports continued and active volunteer engagement during ALL phases of the school reopening plans within the normal standards for volunteer screening and in coordination with school administration. Virginia PTA also supports access to schools in all phases for other critical community partners that contribute to student success and engagement in the community.

Recess

High quality recess breaks improve mood, health, well-being, school engagement, behavior, learning, focus, attendance, and overall school climate.

- Virginia PTA supports no less than 30 daily minutes of unstructured, free choice recess.
- Virginia PTA supports volunteer involvement in monitoring recess to provide teachers with adequate break and planning time during the day.
- Virginia PTA opposes withholding recess as a form of punishment for any reason.

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