

		SUBJECT	
		CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL VOLUNTEER, VISITATION, AND REMOVAL POLICY	
DATE ISSUED 05/01/2024	DATE REVISED		NOVA POLICY #
ISSUED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY NOVA BOARD	COA POLICY #

SUBJECT

Classroom and School Volunteer, Visitation, and Removal Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

While NOVA Academy Early College High School (“NOVA” or the “Charter School”) encourages parents/guardians and interested members of the community to visit the Charter School and view the educational program, the Charter School also endeavors to create a safe environment for students and staff. Additionally, parents volunteering in the classroom can be extremely helpful to our teachers and valuable to our students. We thank all parents for their willingness to volunteer in this manner.

Nevertheless, to ensure the safety of students and staff as well as to minimize interruption of the instructional program, the Charter School 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.
2. A volunteer shall also have on file with the Charter School 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 Charter School Board of Directors, this paragraph shall not apply to a volunteer whose functions do not require frequent or prolonged contact with students.
3. Volunteering must be arranged with the classroom teacher and Chief Executive Officer 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 without prior written approval from the Chief Executive Officer or designee.
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.

Visitation

1. Visits during school hours should first be arranged with the teacher and the Chief Executive Officer 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 Chief Executive Officer or designee.
2. All visitors (including volunteers) shall register in the Visitor's 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 Chief Executive Officer or designee may design a visible means of identification for visitors while on school premises.
4. The Charter School complies with all applicable health and safety guidelines and orders issued by federal, state, or local governments or health departments. 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 required by the State or County Department of Public Health, visitors will be required to wear personal protective equipment, such as masks, and adhere to physical distancing protocols. The Charter School 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. The Charter School 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 the Charter School, consistent with the law. The Charter School 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. If the Charter School serves students in grades 9-12, inclusive, and provides on-campus access to employers, it shall not prohibit access to the military services. "Military services" includes the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Coast Guard, the United

States Space Force, or any reserve component of those federal forces, the National Guard, the State Guard, and the active militia.

7. Except for unusual circumstances, approved by the Chief Executive Officer, the Charter School visits should not exceed approximately sixty (60) minutes in length and may not occur more than twice per semester.
8. 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 the Chief Executive Officer's or designee's written permission.
9. 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 Chief Executive Officer or designee may seek the assistance of the police in managing or reporting any visitor or volunteer in violation of this Policy.
2. The Chief Executive Officer, 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 Chief Executive Officer 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.
4. The Chief Executive Officer 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.
5. Any visitor who is directed to leave by the Chief Executive Officer or designee will not be permitted to return to the Charter School campus for at least seven (7) calendar days. When a visitor is directed to leave, the Chief Executive Officer 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. The Chief Executive Officer 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 the Charter School's orderly operation. Consent may be reinstated at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or designee prior to the expiration

of the fourteen (14) calendar day timeline, whenever the Chief Executive Officer 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 Chief Executive Officer or designee 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.

7. This Policy does not authorize the Charter School 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 Chief Executive Officer 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 the Charter School's pursuit of a restraining order against a visitor, which, if granted, 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.