



# METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## **MNPS Regulations for Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Participation**

- 1) All potential Watch D.O.G.S. volunteers must submit and pass a PENCIL background check before rendering services.
- 2) Watch D.O.G.S. volunteers must be listed as a contact in the student record in order to participate and must follow all rules and regulations as established by Watch D.O.G.S. and Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools visitor policy.
- 3) Watch D.O.G.S. volunteers must be a father, step-father, foster father, uncle, grandfather, brother, or special circumstances as determined and approved by the principal.

## **WATCH D.O.G.S. ® (Dads of Great Students) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is WATCH D.O.G.S. ® (Dads Of Great Students)?**

It is an innovative father involvement, educational initiative of the National Center For Fathering. It began in 1998 in a single school in Springdale, Arkansas and has since grown into a nationally recognized program that has brought hundreds of thousands of fathers and father figures into our nation's classrooms and hallways. WATCH D.O.G.S. ® has created millions of "in school" volunteer hours and continues to have a tremendously positive impact on the educational process. Today more than 3,156 schools in 46 states plus DC participate in WATCH D.O.G.S. ®

### **What is the purpose of WATCH D.O.G.S.?**

- 1) To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
- 2) To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

### **How does WATCH D.O.G.S.® work?**

WATCH D.O.G.S.®, a K-12 program, invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other father figures to volunteer at least one day all day at their child's/student's school during the school year. The program is overseen by a "Top Dog" volunteer who partners with the school administrator to coordinate scheduling and identify opportunities for WatchDOGS to provide assistance at the school.

**What sorts of things to WATCH D.O.G.S.® do?**

The volunteers perform a variety of tasks during their volunteer day including monitoring the school entrance, assisting with unloading and loading of buses and cars, monitoring the lunch room, or helping in the classroom with a teacher's guidance by working with small groups of students on homework, flashcards or spelling.

**Who are WATCH D.O.G.S.®?**

Fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles and other father figures who volunteer to serve at least one day a year in a variety of school activities as assigned by the school principal or other administrator. In MNPS our policy is that the WatchDOGS in our schools will have to go through the PENCIL background check, and also be listed on the emergency contact list for a student in the school.

**How will WATCH D.O.G.S.® be implemented in MNPS?**

Parents interested in the program, should contact the school's principal. The school team, with the leadership of a parent point person (called the Top Dog), will launch the program at the individual school with a pizza party.

**What does WATCH D.O.G.S.® cost?**

Watch D.O.G.S. requires schools to buy a kit with instructional materials, T-shirts for dads, and other items. You cannot use your school's student activity funds to purchase this kit. The kit costs \$350.00. Kits may be purchased with Title 1 funds or 2316 funding. Your school support organizations such as PTA, PTO, etc. may also purchase the kit for your school.

**What kind of research is there on the effectiveness of WATCH D.O.G.S.®?**

- During 2003, WATCH D.O.G.S.® conducted a survey of 50 participating schools nationwide.
- Key findings:
  - 89% agree that WATCH D.O.G.S.® is a valuable component of the school's efforts to promote a safe and positive learning environment for students.
  - 79% agree that since implementing the WATCH D.O.G.S.® program, the school has experienced an increase in father involvement in areas other than WATCH D.O.G.S.® (parent-teacher conferences, volunteerism in the classroom or after school, PTA involvement).

**Who do I contact for more information?**

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