

**RELEASE FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY PERSONNEL**

Emergency volunteers selflessly serve the people of the Town of Schodack by responding to our emergency situations regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. The Board of Education recognizes that volunteer ambulance squads and fire companies often experience severe shortages of available volunteers during daytime hours. In order to assist these organizations that serve our District and the community, the Board of Education adopts this policy creating an emergency call release program, whereby volunteers who work or study in the Schodack Central School District may obtain approval to respond to emergency ambulance and fire calls for volunteer ambulance squads and fire companies serving the Town of Schodack.

**I. Employees**

- A. Employees of the District who wish to be considered for the emergency call release program must be active volunteers in an ambulance company or fire company that serves at least a portion of the Town of Schodack, and must be employees who are not directly responsible for the supervision, transportation or safety of students. Eligible employees must indicate their desire, in writing, to be eligible for said release and provide proof of active volunteer status.
- B. Upon review by the appropriate department head, an employee may be approved to leave their work site in the event of an emergency call from their ambulance or fire company. Emergency calls for release purposes do not include non-emergency patient transportation. Approval to be released for volunteer emergency response pursuant to this policy is a privilege, and may be revoked in the event the employee abuses release time, overuses release time, or it is otherwise found not to be in the interest of the school district or the employee.
- C. Prior to leaving his or her work site, the employee must notify the immediate supervisor or office personnel, who shall note the time of departure and return on the appropriate attendance record. In the event that the emergency call is completed during working hours, the employee must return to his or her work site immediately following the completion of the emergency. If sufficient emergency personnel respond to the emergency, the employee shall request release from the officer in charge and shall return immediately to his or her work site during working hours.
- D. An employee who is approved to leave their work site pursuant to this policy will be paid at their normal hourly rate during working hours while responding to emergencies as provided in this policy.

## II. Students

- A. High school students who wish to be considered for the emergency call release program must be active volunteers in an ambulance company or fire company that serves at least a portion of the Town of Schodack. Students must be qualified for service through successful completion of appropriate medical or fire response training. Eligible students must indicate their desire, in writing, to be eligible for said release, provide proof of active volunteer status and qualifying training, and, if under eighteen years of age, have written consent of their parents or legal guardians. The school principal shall review requests for release pursuant to this policy, and may approve any such request upon finding that such release shall not impair the educational program of the student. Approval to be released for volunteer emergency response pursuant to this policy is a privilege, and may be revoked in the event the student abuses release time, overuses release time, or it is otherwise found not to be in the interest of the school district or the student.
- B. Upon such approval, a student may leave the school in the event of an emergency call from their ambulance or fire company. Emergency calls for release purposes do not include non-emergency patient transport. A student may not be released to serve as drivers of emergency vehicles.
- C. Prior to leaving school, the student must sign out through the high school main office and note the time and reason for departure. In the event that school is still in session, the student must return to school immediately following the completion of the emergency. If sufficient emergency personnel respond to the emergency, the student shall request release from the officer in charge and shall return immediately to school if school is still in session.

Approved: 5/18/04 [3<sup>rd</sup> 5/18/04; 2<sup>nd</sup> 4/22/04; 1<sup>st</sup> 3/18/04]

[BOE\POLICIES\VOLUNTEER EMERG PERSONNEL 5/18/04]