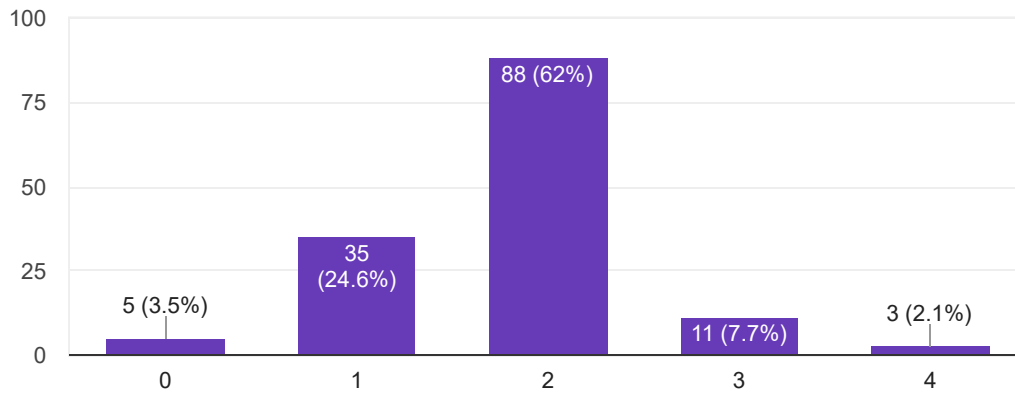


# Volunteer Security Survey

142 responses

How many adults (parent, guardians, grandparents) from your family volunteer at Exploris?

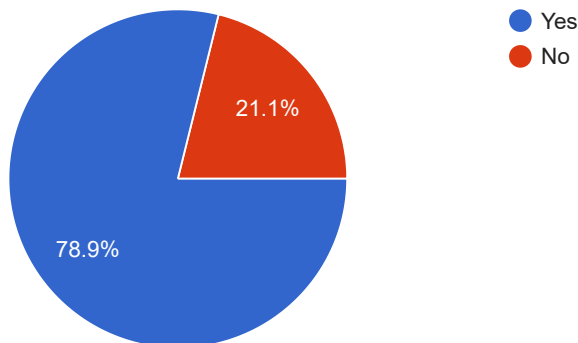
142 responses



## Required Background Checks

Would you be in favor of requiring that all volunteers at Exploris submit to a criminal background check?

142 responses



## Why Not?

### If you answered no, why do you feel we should not do Volunteer Background Checks?

30 responses

Not worried about it and would become to much red tape

Volunteers at Exploris are typically family or friends of the school community in some way. Requiring an extra hoop to jump through in regards to volunteer background checks could reduce the willingness of some to step up and help, especially in an immediate need. I see this to be nothing but problematic and unnecessary for our school. It would also be an additional cost either to volunteers and/or the school, which again, seems unnecessary. Our ability to openly work with valued community members and businesses is part of what makes us unique as a school, and I would hate to see that be even slightly hindered.

I worry that this requirement will be a burden on families, especially those with financial difficulties. Also, it may slow down the process of getting enough volunteers.

Cost. Time. There should be some communication to volunteers that they should always be at least two children with them for everyone's piece of mind and protection.

I don't think it is nectfor all situations. Today I participated in the Mad zCity Money event where the vast majority of volunteers were not connected to Exploris. Without then the event wouldn't have happened. For that type of fully supervised event there would be no need for a background check. For parents spending the night with or driving my kids on a field trip. That type of situation it might make sense.

It can be a barrier to getting folks to volunteer. Who pays for it? School? or Volunteer?

Maybe elementary aged kids are more vulnerable, but, in middle school, the volunteer opportunities don't seem to put the students at risk or in vulnerable situations. Any driving requires a drivers license so that is a certain level of scrutiny. Otherwise, volunteers seem to be paired with their child. Maybe I'm ignorant as to what unsafe potentials exist, but a background check seems an unnecessary expense -unless we can point to evidence otherwise.

No need for you to have social security numbers

Hassle, create a lack of volunteers, people who volunteer less then 3 times a year would be less likely to volunteer.

Sonja here - I said no b/c I know that background checks are expensive. Who would pay for this? As long a chaperones are never alone with a student I feel ok with non-background checked drivers and chaperones working with my child. Perhaps a chaperone training session and contract are needed for chaperones leading experiences for a significant amount of time (For example: Being the lead teacher for Explorations, reading with students each week, etc.). We used to have a volunteer contract for lead teachers and required training sessions during the first year of Explorations... I'm not sure if they still do this. Also, I do want background checks for anyone working 1:1 with students. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to talk more.

Too much extra admin and expense and I think then the school will be short on volunteers which it already is

I think all angles should be considered, when people are volunteering to work at a school, what is actually (if anything) caught on a background check.

It undermines the feeling of the school as a community and U think it will further reduce people's willingness to volunteer. I have never been worried about my children's interaction with volunteers.

1. I trust that on field trips there are a variety of volunteers and that one single volunteer shouldn't be able to put my child at risk. 2. I don't necessarily want each volunteer judged only on their past if they are currently doing fine. 3. I don't want to dissuade people from volunteering because of paperwork and put the programs I really love my kids attending at risk.

I think if we have 2 parents in each classroom that would be a safety measure.

Wouldn't be able to volunteer last minute if we didn't have a background check on file, the cost could prevent some families from volunteering, already have trouble getting enough volunteers for explorations and field experiences

I have a level of trust with the parent group there.

It feels excessive & overly cautious. We have not been given enough information about what the results of the background check would be used for. Also, I think that there are better ways for the school to spend that money.

Because I'm concerned about what get deemed ok on a criminal background check and what gets deemed not ok. Who decides?

time consuming, invasive, would lead to less volunteers

I feel only volunteers who are NOT parents be required to do a background check. I assume this would save the school quite a bit of \$\$ as compared to everyone being required (?)... In the six years we've had kids at Exploris, I've never felt unsafe with our kids being with any other parent. Of course, there should be a rule that any volunteer should never be alone with any single student.

n/a

it may discourage some - especially those who only plan to volunteer for a short duration - as the time required to perform background checks may be extensive

I think this would limit people being willing or able to volunteer. The awesome volunteers are part of what makes Exploris awesome! Could background checks be required for some things and not others? Maybe volunteers driving and/or chaperoning out of town get background checks, but not volunteers for on-campus?

Can be a costly expense for the way the school is run. Also background checks do not cover other states depending on how they are done. It also can depend on what the main concern is. If it is for sex offenders/predators or driving history? There may be a potential risk of a reduction of volunteers due to privacy

Do you have so many volunteers that you can afford to discriminate against parents with potential prior issues that may have nothing to do with their ability to volunteer and be a helpful member of the Exploris community?

Instead of adding the workload on the staff to administer a background check requirement, I think focusing on your own common sense policies/procedures that specifically apply to your situation (which I know you already do) is a better use of your time and energy. As a foster and adoptive parent I have had several background checks, and I understand that for liability reasons that you may feel it is best to require background checks. If you decide this, I will totally understand, and will happily have another background check done. As a parent, though, it will not make me feel that my children are any safer. Background checks might flag some things that do not have anything to do with one's qualification to volunteer, and also are likely to not indicate anything on an official record that actually may be a concern. The things that make me feel that my kids are safe at Exploris are 1) the consistent, attitude in the staff that I see they genuinely care for the kids. 2) The policy of locking all the doors and requiring people to be buzzed in the front desk, and 3) The policies and procedures the staff have with chaperones (like following "the rule of three") and the fact that there seems to be ample volunteers to chaperone when needed. I would be concerned that going through the hassle of background checks could discourage some people from volunteering and promote an environment of bureaucracy instead of the "Exploris family" environment that we love.

I worry that it would create another barrier for families/parents to be a part of the school community. If we are moving to increase our EDS- this would be an added burden on the family. I also like the feel that families can come to community circle and be able to volunteer to help out. I agree safety is important ..but wonder if there is a middle ground besides the background check. For example volunteer application with some questions...

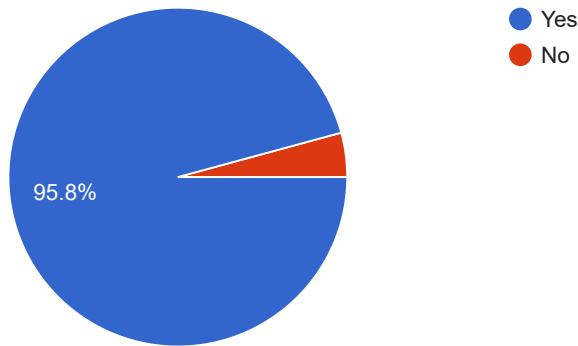
Don't know what the background checks require

Background checks are not inherently bad. However, you have not provided enough information on how they would be used. Are volunteers checked prior to each time they interact with students or just annually or every 5 years, etc.? What would be an incident that would prevent someone from volunteering? How long ago would the incident had to have occurred? Who makes the decision, the school board, the director, a panel, etc.? Background checks are often used instead of having robust policies in place and many organizations simply use them as a way of alleviating liability concerns rather than protecting students. How are background checks paid for? A primary strength of Exploris is the fact that it is a community based school. By requiring background checks you may run the risk of alienating the community from the school

## Payment

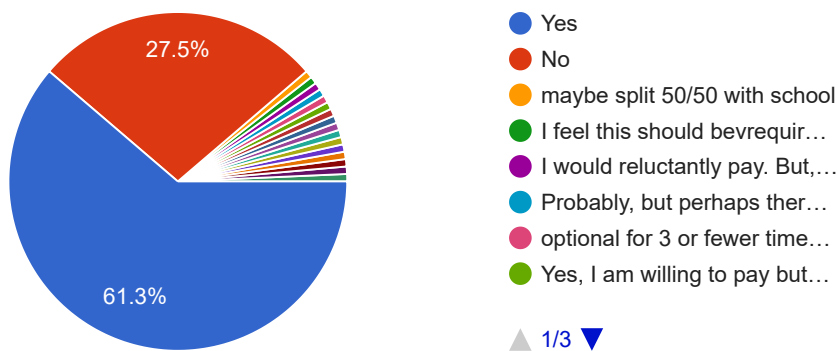
### Would you continue to volunteer if a background check was required?

142 responses



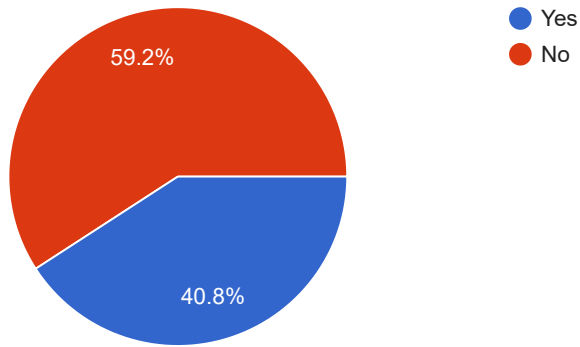
### Would you be willing to pay the approximate cost of \$30 for your own background check?

142 responses



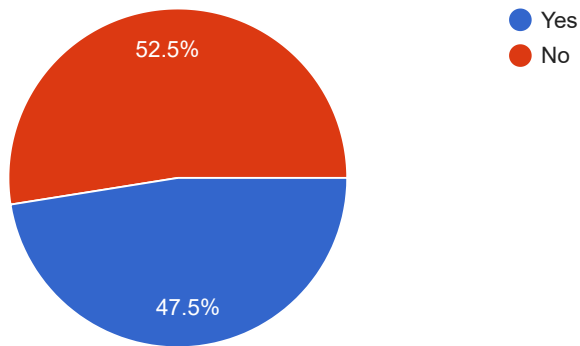
### Would paying for your own background check reduce the number of volunteers from your family?

142 responses



### Would you be willing to donate to fund to pay for backgrounds checks for those who cannot?

139 responses



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