



Fast facts:

New Background Check Requirements for School Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

The recent flurry of child abuse prevention legislation, extensively amending the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) and indirectly amending School Code requirements, include significant changes to the background check requirements for new and current employees, contractors with direct contact with children, and volunteers.

- The law now requires all school employees, contractors and volunteers having direct contact with children to obtain new clearances (child abuse history clearance and state and federal criminal history checks) every 60 months.
- Current employees with clearances older than five years as of Dec. 31, 2014, must get new ones within one year of Dec. 31, 2014 (i.e., no later than Dec. 31, 2015). Current clearances that are less than five years old will expire at the five-year anniversary, and those employees will need to get them before that anniversary, even if that means earlier than Dec. 31, 2015.
- Effective Dec. 31, 2014, new volunteers must have clearances in order to be approved for their positions. Effective July 1, 2015, existing volunteers with clearances that will be more than five years old must obtain the required clearances.
- For purposes of the CPSL clearance requirements, a volunteer is an adult serving in an unpaid position in which they are individually responsible for the welfare of a child or have “direct contact with children” (care, supervision, guidance or control of children, or routine interaction with children).
- If a volunteer has continuously resided in Pennsylvania for 10 years AND swears in writing that he or she has never been convicted of a disqualifying crime in Pennsylvania, or the corresponding offenses under the laws of any other jurisdiction, the volunteer only needs the Department of Human Services child abuse history clearance and the state criminal history check; the federal check is not needed.
- Any staff with a current clearance hitting the five-year mark in January through April should get started today on renewing.
- Please see the reverse side of this page for Clearance Application Directions.

Dr. Alfonso Angelucci

Superintendent, Slippery Rock Area School District

“Cultivating Knowledge and Encouraging Independence”

CLEARANCE INFORMATION FORM: PLEASE PRINT – Thank you

1. Criminal History Record Information obtained from the PA State Police (free for volunteers)

<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

2. Child Abuse Clearance obtained through the PA Department of Public Welfare (now known as the Department of Human Services) certifying if the applicant is named in the statewide database “as the alleged perpetrator in a pending child abuse investigation or as the perpetrator of a founded report or indicated report” of child abuse. (free for volunteers)

www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis

3. Federal Criminal History Record Information obtained by submitting a full set of fingerprints to the PA State Police or its authorized agent for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation “for the purpose of verifying the identity of the applicant and obtaining a current record of any criminal arrests and convictions.” (\$27 unless a 10-year resident)

www.miu4.org – click this link and then click fingerprinting in the top line of the page.

Exception on #3: Section 6344.2 (B.1) permits an exception related to the federal background check. The FBI check may be waived for a prospective unpaid volunteer if they have been a resident of this Commonwealth during the entirety of the previous ten-year period” and the volunteer “swears or affirms in writing” that they have not been convicted of any crime, in another state, similar to the convictions disqualifying a person in PA.

Slippery Rock Area School District

Act 153 – Child Protective Services Law Written

Affirmation for Volunteers

One exception to the FBI fingerprint requirements applies to VOLUNTEERS. If the volunteer has been a PA resident for 10 years prior to application, and swears by written affirmation that he or she is not disqualified due to a conviction for any crime listed in the Child Protective Services Law (see List of Reportable Offenses), the FBI fingerprint requirement is not required. The Child Abuse and Criminal History clearances are still required.

Name: _____

Volunteer Position: _____

By checking this box, I state I have been a PA resident for the past 10 years.

By

checking this box, I state I have not been arrested for or convicted of an offense or offenses enumerated under 24 P.S. §1-111 or (f.1). See List of Reportable Offenses.

By signing this form, I certify under penalty of law that the statements made in this form are true, correct and complete. I understand that false statements herein, including, without limitation, any failure to accurately report any arrest or conviction for a Reasonable Offense, shall subject me to criminal prosecution under 18 Pa. C.S. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Signature

Date