



Pennsylvania State Volunteer Clearances

As you may already know, the State of Pennsylvania made numerous changes to legislation, namely Act 153 of 2014, in relation to volunteers obtaining and renewing clearances for criminal history and child abuse. This legislation states that all volunteers are required to obtain clearances. A “volunteer” is defined as an adult in an unpaid volunteer position who is responsible for the welfare of a child or who has direct contact with children.

Due to the cooperative nature of our school, parents are not only encouraged, but expected to volunteer and serve as an integral role in their children’s education. Those of you who are returning families to CCNS know that there are ample opportunities to volunteer in various capacities throughout the school year. I know that our new families are excited to get involved as well. Part of what makes CCNS so special is the amount of parent involvement in our classrooms, activities and fundraisers and how much we value that family commitment. In addition, at CCNS we feel that the safety and welfare of all of our students is paramount. Therefore, the Administration and Board of Officers and Trustees strongly recommends that **all caregivers of CCNS students** complete the necessary clearances.

The following roles will be **REQUIRED** to have clearances prior to serving in a volunteer capacity: Hostessing Committee Member, Room Parent, or any parent planning on chaperoning and/or transporting children on a field trip.

Required Clearances:

1. A report of criminal history from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP).
<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>
2. Child Abuse History Clearance from the Department of Human Services
<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
3. If an individual has lived outside of the Commonwealth of PA in the last ten years, he/she must obtain a fingerprint based federal criminal history <https://www.identogo.com/locations/pennsylvania>

*Please note that clearances #1 and #2 are free but there is a fee required for those needing the FBI fingerprint clearance. Details can be found at the websites listed above.

Our little red schoolhouse is not alone in implementing these requirements. Many organizations throughout our community, including Council Rock School district, require these same clearances for volunteers. You will find that these clearances may be needed if you plan to volunteer in your child’s public or private school, as a team coach, or as a scout leader. Some of

you may have already completed these clearances for other organizations. If so, please make copies of the clearances and submit them to CCNS.

After you have completed your clearances and received your results, please submit copies to the CCNS office. CCNS will be keeping track of those families who obtain their clearances.