

Frequently Asked Questions

Volunteers

How do I become a volunteer?

Complete a volunteer application and submit it to the appropriate building principal for review. The volunteer application form can be downloaded at www.wattsburg.org. From the home page: *Quick Links > Become a Volunteer*.

Do I need a background check or clearances to become a volunteer?

Yes, for the safety of our students all volunteers must obtain three (3) official clearances (certifications) prior to becoming a board approved volunteer: ACT 34, ACT 151, and ACT 114.

The Child Protective Services Law (CSPL) does not require applicants that have been a resident of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years to obtain the ACT 114 FBI fingerprint certification. Do I need this certification to be a volunteer in WASD?

Yes. For the safety of our students the District's volunteer policy requires all volunteer applicants to acquire the ACT 114 certification. There are no exceptions.

How Do I Obtain The Required Clearances To Become A Volunteer?

Detailed instructions for this online process are available on the School District Website at www.wattsburg.org. From the homepage: *Quick Links > Become a Volunteer*.

Do Clearances Need To Be Submitted More Than Once?

Yes. The Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) requires school volunteers to obtain and resubmit new clearances every 60 months (five years).

Are Volunteers Supervised?

Yes. Volunteers work under the supervision and guidance of school employees, although volunteers may work with students when school employees are not in the direct vicinity from time to time.

Could my application to be a volunteer be denied or my status as a volunteer revoked?

Yes. The volunteer position is not a right, but rather a privilege that is conferred by the Board and the administration. As such, any volunteer position or volunteer may be eliminated at any time for any reason or no reason.

Once approved, how long am I considered a Volunteer?

Approved volunteer status is considered valid and active as long as:

1. The volunteer is not removed from volunteer status by the Board or administration;
2. Required clearances (new) are resubmitted every 60 months;
3. State or federal law does not require action by the district.

What is the difference between a Volunteer and a Visitor to the school?

A Volunteer is an adult serving in an unpaid position in which they are 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 through any program, activity or service sponsored by the district).

A Visitor is an adult whose presence with children does not rise to the level of a Volunteer. Visitors include, but are not limited to:

1. A parent, grandparent, guardian or other family member who visits the District to participate in a celebration or District sponsored family time;
2. Adults who attend District sponsored community events, athletic events or extracurricular events; or
3. Vendors, guest speakers, guest readers or other adults invited to the District on an occasional basis.

Are School Volunteers considered Mandated Reporters?

Yes.

I have additional questions about the Volunteer policy. Who can I contact?

The Building Principal or Athletic Director can answer your questions.