

# 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](http://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](http://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.