

# Juniata County School District

75 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET  
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059  
TELEPHONE (717) 436-2111

August 27, 2015

Dear Parents,

On July 1, 2015, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 15, which clarifies the reforms made to the Child Protective Services Law. Among the changes, Act 15 clarifies and adds provision in relation to background checks and child abuse clearances for volunteers. Under 23 Pa. C.S. section 6344.2, "adults applying for or holding an unpaid position as a volunteer with a child-care service, a school or a program, activity or service, as a person responsible for the child's welfare or having direct volunteer contact with child" must complete the required background checks and child abuse clearance. Act 15 added a definition of direct volunteer use as "the care, supervision, guidance or control of children and routine interaction with children." Act 15 defines routine interaction with children as "regular and repeated contact that is integral to a person's employment or volunteer responsibilities."

Due to the new laws in Pennsylvania for volunteers in schools, the District is taking all precautionary steps to make certain that all volunteers have proper clearances while working with our students. To make this process as easy as possible for you, we are opening up our two high school buildings the evenings of September 1<sup>st</sup> at East Juniata High School between the hours of 5:00 – 7:00 PM in room 112, and September 9<sup>th</sup> at Juniata High School, between the hours of 6:00 – 8:00 PM in room 213, so that you may use our computers and printers to print your free clearances that the state is supplying to you. Our Athletic Directors will be there to help guide you in the process and help any of our Boosters or Home and School parents.

The two clearances that you will need are Act 34 (PA State Police Criminal Background Clearance) and Act 151 (PA Child Abuse History Clearance). You may access these clearances, free of charge, by going to the following websites as well:

- Act 34 - <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>
- Act 151 - <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

If you have lived in the State for the past 10 years, the third item that we would need to have on hand is a sworn written statement that you are not disqualified from service based on a conviction or offense based under subsection §6344. If you are new to the State, we would also need to have the FBI fingerprint clearance that you would be able to make application to at the following website: [https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index\\_dpw.htm](https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm)

We do understand that this process may be a burden on some of our volunteers and for that we do apologize. We do believe though, that by taking these precautionary steps, your children and our students will have the additional safety precautions in place for a safe and productive school year.

Sincerely,



Keith Yarger  
Superintendent