



Spring-Ford Area School District

199 Bechtel Road
Collegedale, Pennsylvania 19426

Telephone: 610-705-6000
Fax: 610-705-6245

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

May 2008

Dear Spring-Ford Area School District Community Member,

The Spring-Ford Area School District appreciates the unique contributions made by parents and community members who volunteer to spend time in our schools among our students. We believe it is important to express our gratitude to those volunteers, as their daily efforts make our district a positive place in which to learn and work.

We also believe it is important to protect the safety and well-being of our students. As such, the Spring-Ford Area School Board has developed a policy regarding community volunteers that will ensure that all of those who serve our students have the appropriate clearances – the Act 34 Criminal History Background Check and the Act 151 Pennsylvania State Child Abuse Clearance.

This policy was developed in response to legislation that requires school districts to obtain Act 34, 151 and federal clearances for all new employees. On the advice of legal counsel, the district decided to extend this requirement to community volunteers. The requirement is in no way meant to dissuade community members from volunteering in our schools – we simply believe we can never be too careful when it comes to safeguarding our students. In fact, we hope that this requirement will serve as a deterrent to those who intend to harm children by preventing such individuals from volunteering in our schools.

Because we are fortunate to have so many committed and involved volunteers, we felt it was important to tell you about this new policy so that you are aware of how it could affect you personally. Enclosed you will find a list of frequently asked questions that should help you to determine what you might need to do if you are or want to be a volunteer in our schools. Information about how to obtain the clearances, how often they must be applied for and which types of volunteers would need clearances can be found in the attached list.

Also enclosed is a volunteer application form, should you need one. If you would like to review the community volunteers policy, it is available online at www.spring-ford.net or by contacting the Superintendent's office at (610) 705-6203.

We hope you understand that our decision to require volunteer clearances is one that will make our schools safer and more secure – which is always one of our top priorities. The Spring-Ford Area School District values the dedication, talent and care that volunteers demonstrate on a daily basis, and we welcome your continued involvement.

Sincerely,

Marsha R. Hurda, Ed.D.

Marsha R. Hurda, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools