



Ephrata Area School District

803 Oak Boulevard, Ephrata, Pa 17522-1998
Phone:(717)-721-1513 Fax:(717)-721-1514
www.easdpa.org

April 6, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you to all parents, guardians, and community members who volunteer their time to help students achieve in the classroom and on field trips that offer unique learning opportunities.

We are confident that you share the District commitment to providing a quality education in a safe learning environment. District policies and procedures are reviewed on an ongoing basis to enhance safety for students and staff. On January 1, a newly revised Policy 916 (School Volunteers/Chaperones) was implemented as an additional tool to support safety. Policy 916 defines volunteer and chaperone categories and establishes the requirement for some to complete background checks and a tuberculosis (TB) test.

After the new policy went into effect, we received calls and emails from parents and other volunteers with concerns that Policy 916 is too stringent and costly. We heard your concerns, have further reviewed the policy, and are preparing to present a revision of this policy to the Ephrata Area Board of School Directors. The following change will be recommended to Policy 916 to continue to protect students while reducing financial hardships for volunteers and chaperones.

- ❖ Chaperones for single-day field trips that will NOT be alone with students will be required to complete two clearances (Act 34 criminal record and Act 151 child abuse). The TB test and more expensive Act 114 FBI background check will not be required for single-day trips. However, volunteers/chaperones that might be alone with students on day trips, overnight trips, and in the classroom will continue to be required to complete Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances and the TB test.

Chaperones and volunteers shall be required to continue to comply with legally mandated employment requirements and procedures for all clearances. If a clearance report would prevent a volunteer or chaperone from being hired as a District employee, the individual may not volunteer in any capacity.

For more information about Policy 916, clearance application forms and a volunteer/chaperone manual are available in the **Parents** section of the District website at www.easdpa.org.

Thank you to all volunteers and chaperones. We value and appreciate your time and commitment to supporting the District. The revisions to Policy 916 are in place to protect students and are not intended to discourage parents from volunteering.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin Felty
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Kimberly Schlemmer
Assistant Superintendent