

VOLUNTEER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I become a volunteer?

Go onto the District's website at www.ovsd.org. Go to the "Families" dropdown, select "Parents/Guardians", and click on "Becoming a Volunteer". All information, including steps you must take to become a volunteer, is explained on the website.

2. What types of crimes would preclude a volunteer from working in schools?

- Felony sexual offenses with adults or minor
- Crimes against minors (misdemeanor or felony)
- Possession, sales, or use of controlled substances
- Illegal possession or use of weapons or dangerous objects
- Assault and battery
- Burglary or robbery

3. What about something serious that happened many years ago?

The more time has passed, the less likely it will prevent someone from volunteering. If the offense involved children, it is unlikely the prospective volunteer will be cleared.

4. What about misdemeanor convictions for offenses such as DUI, shoplifting or trespassing?

They most likely would not prevent a volunteer from working in a classroom.

5. What is the difference between a Tier 1 and a Tier 2 Volunteer?

Tier I volunteers may perform volunteer service on a school campus more than five hours a week; chaperone day or overnight field trips; and may volunteer as a coach or assistant coach. Tier I volunteers are required to be fingerprinted and have a current TB risk assessment/examination. You will also be checked against the Megan's law registry through the RAPTOR system.

Tier II volunteers may perform volunteer service on a school campus five hours or less per week and/or may serve parent participation hours outlined by state preschool requirements. Tier II volunteers are required to have a current TB risk assessment/examination and will be checked against the Megan's law registry through the RAPTOR system.

6. I recently had my fingerprints taken, how long does it take to find out when my fingerprints have cleared?

It can take up to four weeks for OVSD to receive the fingerprint clearance from the DOJ, sometimes it may be more or less time. We recommend prospective volunteers call their school site to find out if their fingerprints have cleared. The DOJ does not give us a timeline for receiving fingerprint clearances. It has been our experience most clearances are received within two weeks.

7. A prospective Tier I volunteer was fingerprinted for their job; do they need to be fingerprinted again?

Current law prohibits us from sharing databases with other employers. By OVSD receiving the fingerprint clearance, it allows us to receive any subsequent arrest reports. Therefore, law enforcement officers, teachers employed with another school district and other public sector employees are required to obtain fingerprint clearance through OVSD.

8. Do I need to re-do my fingerprints every year?

No, OVSD volunteers only need to be fingerprinted and submit to a background check once.

9. How does one get taken off the volunteer list?

Volunteers may be removed from the list by contacting their school site and requesting to be removed from the volunteer list.